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A driver stands by his pickup after skidding off the snow-covered Bethlehem bypass road yesterday. Weather story, Page 22. (Brian Hendler)

Husseini: PA to select governor of Jerusalem

A PALESTINIAN "governor of Jerusalem" is to be appointed by the Palestinian Authority, Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, confirmed last night. The move is "a natural step after our taking over towns around Jerusalem in Area B," Husseini told The Jerusalem Post. "We wouldn't name a governor for an area that is not under our control," Husseini added, referring to the outcry last night from the Israeli opposition, which claimed the appointment referred to eastern Jerusalem. The appointment covers the towns and villages around Jerusalem, such as Abu Dis and Eizariya, which the PA defines as included in the Jerusalem district. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called the appointment "a provocation... aimed at creating a reality in which the PA has a political stand in Jerusalem." The Likud last night called on the government to prevent the appointment. Channel 1 reported last night that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat had chosen attorney Jamil Othman to be governor of Jerusalem, and that the appointment would possibly be made official before tomorrow's Palestinian elections. Arafat denied the report and Husseini said the decision to appoint Othman was made a year ago. Husseini also denied a TV report that he opposes the move because it threatens his authority in Jerusalem. "The decision is of the PA and not me," said Husseini, who described Othman as a "close friend." Othman, who lives in Eizariya, is to have an office at the former civil administration building in Abu Dis, just outside Jerusalem, which was turned over to the PA earlier this week. Husseini said other Palestinian self-rule areas also have governors and insisted the Jerusalem appointment is "nothing special." The move by Palestinian leaders to set up their own governing body in eastern Jerusalem following tomorrow's elections was predicted by an official government study. The study, shown to The Jerusalem Post on condition the author, a senior official, remain anonymous, analyzes the likely effects of the Palestinian elections on Jerusalem. "The Palestinian elections will create an entirely new reality in Palestinian-Israeli relations in Jerusalem," the report opens. But it continues with an analysis showing this "new reality" may not necessarily be an increased threat to Israel's sovereignty over the city. The answer to this depends on the type of "local governing body" the winning candidates attempt to set up. The report says the major Palestinian candidates for the Jerusalem District have voiced their support for the establishment of such a Palestinian body in eastern Jerusalem. However, the report says, there are disagreements on that body's relations to the Israeli authorities, primarily the Jerusalem Municipality. Some Palestinian candidates "see the Jerusalem Municipality as another version of the civil administration, that must be 'suffered' in order to live," the report states. This scenario has Palestinians continuing to accept services from the municipality, but with the help of their own elected representatives. However, other candidates spoke of an independent governing body, serving as a basis for Palestinian demands during negotiations on the city's future, slated to begin in May. This scenario depends on large-scale funding, largely from the Gulf states, that would allow the Palestinians to run their own affairs in eastern Jerusalem, the report states. Asked to comment on the report, Mahdi Abdul Hadi, a leading Palestinian intellectual in Jerusalem, said that a National Council on Jerusalem, comprised of Palestinian religious and political leaders, was formed three years ago and has held periodic meetings to discuss Palestinian affairs in the city. "I don't believe that a shadow [city] government is in the works," said Abdul Hadi, director of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs. "The outcome of these elections will be a reiteration of the fact Jerusalem is a city of two peoples, of two societies." Meanwhile, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit sharply criticized several international observers of the Palestinian elections for interfering with the police's handling of a Palestinian demonstration. A police spokesman said the international observers tried to prevent police from forcing the demonstrators onto the sidewalk, but eventually backed down. Some 2,000 policemen are being brought into the city over the weekend to prevent unrest during the elections and the right-wing demonstrations planned against them during the day.

PM, Ramon probe faster pre-election process

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres yesterday asked Interior Minister Haim Ramon to see whether the pre-election bureaucratic processes can be accelerated, in the strongest indication yet that elections will be advanced. "It takes between four to five months from when the Knesset is disbanded until the voters go to the polls," Ramon said. "Peres and I agree that at the end of the 20th century this is unacceptable and be asked to see whether in this age of computerization, things cannot be made to function somewhat faster, so we could perhaps conclude the process in no more than 60 days." Ramon said he personally is not "at all sure about the prudence of calling early elections. Things may seem to be going our way now, but who better than we know how fast they can change. In Israel's history no party that deliberately advanced election day ever benefited from the maneuver. It all depends on the opposition now; if they don't make it impossible for us to carry on, we might not go for early elections." In a related development, Labor Knesset faction leader Ra'anan Cohen met Likud Knesset faction chairman Moshe Katsav yesterday in the first official effort to see whether the two large parties could agree on a date for early elections. Katsav did not reject the idea and asked that Labor suggest a date. "We shall then consider that date," he said. "There are no deep differences between us and Labor on this and I think we can come up with an agreement. Such an initiative could be quite acceptable for the Likud." Labor is also believed to be engaged in contingency preparations in the event of a disappointing report to Peres on February 12 by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he returns from another shuttle to Damascus. If no appreciable progress is seen as attainable on the Syrian front, then Peres is seen as having no viable political option but to call for early elections. Labor is already considering advancing its primary date as well. Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban officially told the Mapai central committee last night that he will not be running for the next Knesset, though he vowed to continue his (Continued on Page 20)

Beilin: US can't compensate Israel for bad deal with Syria

MINISTER Yossi Beilin, stressing that the next round of talks with Syria will determine whether a peace treaty can be achieved this year, said yesterday that the US cannot compensate Israel for an inadequate accord with Damascus. Speaking at Tel Aviv University, Beilin said that although US involvement is necessary for an Israeli-Syrian peace treaty, Washington cannot replace the need for proper security guarantees. "There is room to think that the US will try to compensate both sides for what has not been achieved in the negotiations," Beilin said. "But there is a limit. I don't see where a defense treaty [between Israel and the US] can replace borders." Beilin said the next round of talks, which begin next week, followed by another visit by US Sec-

A million Palestinians set to go to polls

Thirteen Japanese parliamentarians met with Arafat in Gaza yesterday. Soares met Arafat's election opponent Samiha Khali. Carter said some independent candidates had been kept off Palestinian television and radio. "In the Palestinian community, independent and other candidates have not been given access to the electronic media. This has not been fair," Carter told a news conference in east Jerusalem, Reuters reported. "There has also been a pattern of intimidation," Carter said. "Some of the most prominent human rights observers, human rights activists among the Palestinians have been arrested, distinguished journalists have been arrested... this intimidation has not been helpful." An outdoor rally in support of Arafat in the Tufah neighborhood was sparsely attended, however, because of the rain. In general the two-week campaign has not aroused much popular enthusiasm. The radical opposition was relatively quiet despite promises to campaign vigorously against the elections. It issued leaflets that were less forceful than might have been expected, and largely (Continued on Page 20)

Ex-GSS head Perry: Expect terror in the areas

A WAVE of terror attacks may be expected in the territories in the near future, as opposition groups remain determined to scuttle the peace process and avenge the death of bomb-maker Yihye Ayyash, former General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry said yesterday. Speaking to a Tel Aviv University assembly held in memory of military intelligence chief Aharon Yariv, Perry also noted that many Palestinian Police and security officers have relatives in the various rejectionist groups, making it difficult for the officers to act against them. "The degree of control the Palestinian security apparatus has over the opposition, particularly the Islamic groups, for the purposes of monitoring, supervising, and eliminating [terrorists], is far from satisfying our desires and needs," Perry said. Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i told the assembly that terrorists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine had killed the two soldiers in an attack Tuesday night north of Hebron. He said Palestinians from the rejectionist groups would continue to carry out attacks in an attempt to derail the peace process. Terror and suicide attacks have become strategic weapons, because they can harm and in some circumstances stop the peace process. Vilna'i added that the assassinations of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shkaki and Ayyash had served to spur attacks against Israel.

Right-wing protests, Page 2 Election in a nutshell, Page 2 Peace Watch report, Page 3

The polls opened at 7 a.m. tomorrow in 1,697 polling stations and close at 7 p.m. The 88 winners from among the 672 candidates for the council will be known by Sunday morning, the CEC estimates. Despite inclement weather, candidates made last-minute campaign runs to drum up support. In Gaza, Fatah supporters sped down the main roads last night in two trucks decorated with flags and banners. They were rivaled by independence supporters such as Rawya Shawa, daughter of the late wealthy mayor of Gaza City Rashid Shawa, who had four banner-bearing buses exclaiming "Vote for Rawya Shawa" pass through Gaza. The most prominent election monitor, former US president Jimmy Carter, arrived yesterday, heading a delegation from his Atlanta-based Carter Center. Others include Portuguese Premier Mario Soares and delegations from Egypt and Jordan.

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Table with columns: SHABBAT, BEGINS, ENDS. Rows: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Eilat.



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Organizers of anti-government rally are determined to restrict extremists

HERB KEINON

ORGANIZERS of tomorrow night's anti-government rally in Jerusalem will - for the first time - supply about 50 of their own ushers to ensure that extremists do not hijack the rally with inflammatory signs, leaflets or chants.

Uri Ariel, head of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, one of the organizations behind the rally, said the ushers are one of the lessons learned from the Rabin assassination.

"We are not trying to replace the police," Ariel said. "But the ushers will aggressively persuade people that we will not tolerate those trying to hijack a ride on the rally."

Ariel was referring to extreme right-wing elements that, at previous demonstrations, have variously raised the Kach banner or distributed inflammatory literature, such as the now notorious picture of Rabin wearing a Nazi uniform.

Tomorrow night's rally at Zion Square, organized by a coalition of right-wing groups, is the first rally with a decidedly anti-government tone since Rabin's assassination. The organizers expect thousands to come to the capital this afternoon for Shabbat, during which various events - including tours to Silwan and a mass afternoon prayer service at the Western Wall - are scheduled.

Ya'acov Novick, one of the organizers, said the purpose of the protests, which coincide with the Palestinian elections, is to "show the country that the left is already

dividing Jerusalem, and that allowing the elections in Jerusalem is the first step toward dividing the city."

Novick said the elections are symbolic of the government's willingness to forfeit sovereignty over the entire capital.

Novick said the organizers have no intention of encouraging protesters to disturb the voting in eastern Jerusalem. He said that the events have all been approved by the police, and have all the necessary permits. The organizers met yesterday with Jerusalem Police Chief Arye Amit to finalize the details.

In Hebron, meanwhile, the heads of the settlement there said they have no intention of interfering with the voting in that city.

"We will not disturb the elections," said Noam Arnon, head of the settlement. "The elections have no significance for us. We do not recognize the Palestinian Authority. For us it is a terror organization."

Arnon warned at a press conference that the redeployment of IDF forces in Hebron will bring bloodshed.

"We sent a letter to the army the day before Tuesday's attack [north of Hebron, in which two soldiers were killed] warning that an attack would take place. And we are warning today that a major attack is being planned here as well. Every night we hear shots, and the army does nothing. It will be easy for them to aim those guns at us."

Arnon said that a group of



Elyakim Ha'etzni (right) ponders a Palestinian election poster, while Noam Arnon makes a point about tomorrow's anti-government rally, at a Hebron press conference yesterday. (Brian Hender)

about 100 Arabs congregated in front of Beit Hadassah in the afternoon, shouting threats at Hebron's Jews. He said that had the IDF not separated the Arabs from the Jews, there would have

been violence. He said the group of Palestinians dispersed when the snow began to fall.

Israel, Jordan sign outstanding bilateral accords

BATSHEVA TSUR
AKABA

ISRAEL and Jordan yesterday signed the last of four bilateral agreements entailed by the peace agreement between the two countries.

"This is a day of great importance - today normal life between Jordan and Israel can begin at last," Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan said last night on his first official visit to Eilat.

Earlier, normalization between the two countries officially came into being in a sprawling Beduin tent on the shores of Akaba in the presence of Hassan, Prime Minister Shimon Peres, his Jordanian counterpart, Zaid Sharrif Bin Shaker, and members of the two governments.

With the signing of the last four bilateral agreements, the joint monitoring committee set up in the Agreed Minutes - Addendum to the Peace Treaty of November

1994 concluded its functions.

Yesterday's agreements were signed by Foreign Ministers Ehud Barak and Abdel-Karim Kabariti (science and culture), Shulamit Aloni and Jamal Seraira (telecommunications), Ambassador Shimon Shamir and Akaba Governor Faez Hassanaw (Akaba-Eilat cooperation), and Defense Ministry Director-General Moshe Kohanovsky and Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Tahsin Shordum (maritime border).

It was a first in more ways than one. Arkia Airlines flew directly to Akaba from Ben-Gurion Airport just two days after the countries signed their new air and land transport agreement.

In the evening, some 250 dignitaries sailed west to Eilat in a

Jordanian luxury liner, crossing the newly set maritime border.

The four agreements are:

● A science and culture agreement that will serve as a framework for cooperation on projects in the fields of research and development, professional training, and cultural exchanges.

● A communications agreement, which codifies the existing postal connection between the countries and will create the infrastructure for bilateral and regional cooperation in the telecommunications field (such as coordination of frequencies, etc.).

● The Akaba-Eilat Agreement. This creates a framework for transforming the Akaba-Eilat region into a single district for cooperation in the fields of tourism,

industry, trade, environment, and infrastructure, including setting up a sea park on both shores of the gulf.

● A maritime border agreement, which draws up arrangements for marking the maritime border between the two countries.

Over the last few months, the following agreements have been signed: tourism, border crossings, energy, health, environment, police and the war against drugs, trade and economic cooperation, agriculture, transportation and civil aviation.

Three permanent working groups will continue to operate: the Jordan Valley Development Committee (JRV); the Water Committee; and the Special Regime for Tsofar and Naharyim. All other contacts will be through the regular channels of embassies and the relevant ministries.

IDF 'chauvinistic'

"THE army treats women completely differently than men," OC Women's Corps Brig-Gen. Yehudit Ben-Natan, who retired this week after 27 years of service, told Israel Radio yesterday. Reuter

CORRECTION

A column in *The Jerusalem Post* (December 8, 1995) erroneously attributed to Rabbi Nachum L. Rabinovitch things he never said. In particular he never stated or implied that the law of *rodef* applies to the late prime minister or anyone else. The *Post* regrets the error and apologizes to Rabbi Rabinovitch and others who may have been offended by it.

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PA elections in a nutshell

What is the form of the Palestinian Council?

There will be 88 members of the legislative and executive council, plus the president of the Palestinian Authority. Some 20 of those elected will be members of the executive authority inside the council. Five more, not elected members of the council, will be chosen by the president, called the *rais*, in his function as head of the executive authority. They will not have the right to vote. The head of the legislative authority will be elected by the 88 elected members of the council from among their number.

Will there be separate elections for the council and for the president?

The president of the executive authority is elected in one ballot, and the members of the council are elected in another. Voters thus cast two separate ballots and deposit them in two different boxes, a red one for the president and a white one for the council members.

Are the elections by district or by overall national proportional representation?

The elections are closer to constituency voting than proportional representation. The candidate who gets the most votes wins. The loser gets nothing. However, there is more than one candidate in 14 of the constituencies. So in Jenin where there are six seats and 36 candidates, the six candidates with the most votes win.

How many representatives are there in each district?

The number of representatives varies approximately according to population. The largest is Gaza City with 12, Hebron 10, Nabulus 8, Khan Yunis 8, North Gaza 7, Ramallah 7, Jerusalem 7, Jenin 6, Central Gaza 5, Rafah 5, Bethlehem 4, Tulkarm 4, Kalkiya 2, Jericho 1, Salfit 1, and Tubas 1.

Districts like Hebron (voting population 133,000) complain they should have more representatives than Gaza City, with a voting population of 123,000. The discrepancies give Gaza 42% of the seats, though it has 36% of the voting population.

How many candidates are running in each district?

There are 672 candidates, approximately seven for each seat. The largest contingent, 92, is running in Gaza City, followed by Hebron (72), North Gaza (67), Khan Yunis (66), Nabulus (55), Jerusalem (52), Central Gaza (50), Ramallah (46), Tulkarm (38), Jenin (36), Bethlehem (30), Rafah (27), Kalkiya (12), Tubas (12), Salfit (11), and Jericho (6). There are approximately seven candidates for each seat.

Which parties or groups are contesting the election?

There are 76 Fatah candidates and 21 from the People's Party (formerly the communist party), and a handful each from smaller parties; though many of the 506 independents are identified with Fatah, its partner FIDA, and other smaller parties like Haider Abdel-Spafi's National Democratic Coalition (formerly Movement for Building Democracy). There are 27 women candidates.

Will voters vote for individuals or en bloc?

Voters can choose any of the candidates in the list up to the total allotted for their district.

What does the ballot look like: how will voters register their choice?

There will be a list of names and voters mark an X by their choices. If they mark eight in a district with only seven seats, their ballot will be voided, but they can vote for fewer than the number of allotted candidates.

How will Palestinians in Jerusalem vote?

There are 80,051 voters in the Jerusalem district, which is broader than the Jerusalem Municipality. There are 165 polling stations in the district. Five are in post offices inside Jerusalem municipal borders. The vote is counted as a postal vote and the ballot boxes resemble post boxes, with slots on the side instead of on top.

What political organizations have refused to participate in the elections?

Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine are officially boycotting the election, though several members of these groups are running as independents. Presidential candidate Samiha Khalil is identified with the DFLP.

When will the election results be known?

The result of the presidential election is expected by 10 p.m. tomorrow and the council elections by the following morning. However, a sample of three unidentified polling stations will be counted tomorrow night and the results published before midnight to give an indication of the general trend. Jon Immanuel

Presley files for divorce from Jackson

Lisa Marie Presley has filed for divorce from Michael Jackson, her publicist said yesterday. Presley cited irreconcilable differences, said Paul Bloch. He said he did not know when or where the filing was made. The daughter of the late Elvis Presley and the King of Pop were married in the Dominican Republic on May 26, 1994. (AP)

Winning numbers & cards

In last night's Payis Hatzak drawing, the bolder of ticket number 416268 won NIS 1,000,000.	64464, 73095, 00261 66442, 95951, 52835 and 45824 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 269, 870, 567, 018, and 671 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 81, 79, 22, 40 and 17 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 1 and 6 won NIS 8.
The bolder of ticket number 366106 won a car.	Tickets numbered 124630, 743129, 555963, 725267, 779769, 304121, 633043 and 617865 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 45025, 32075, 27889, 53718, 16249, 12113, 79677, 59679, 84057, 90730, 16225, 15794,

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, king of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

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Palestinian election officials in Zafara practice how to handle ballot boxes yesterday in preparation for tomorrow's poll. (Reuters)

Peace Watch finds reason to doubt democracy of PA poll

EVELYN GORDON

PREPARATIONS for the Palestinian Authority elections have included several serious flaws that call into question their democratic nature, the independent monitoring organization Peace Watch said yesterday.

The organization, which was chosen as one of the election observers by the PA, noted that first-time elections always suffer from technical problems caused by the legal vacuum and lack of experience. These problems it ignored.

"But there are standards which cannot be lowered for democratic elections," added executive director Daniel Polisar at a Jerusalem press conference. The elections must be "without fear," he said, and they must enable the emergence of a vibrant opposition.

On both of these counts, the PA has so far failed, Polisar said.

The organization stressed that there have been several encouraging signs about the elections: The enthusiasm displayed by the voting population, the massive and successful efforts made to get as many voters registered as possible, the large number of candidates (about eight for every council seat), the fact that election observers were given "largely unimpeded access" to all aspects of the process, and the lack of religious or political discrimination in registering both voters and candidates.

Polisar said the organization had not found a single case in which a candidate's application was rejected by the Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC).

However, there were many serious problems. One of the worst, the group said, was intimidation by the security services at the local level, which included arresting those accused of distributing material or working for opponents of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction. Yusof Katalo, for instance, has been in solitary confinement in Jericho for over two weeks for distributing leaflets opposed to Fatah.

"We have no proof that this is a general policy which comes from above," said Ziv Hellman, who heads the group's election observers team. "But the [PA's] political level has tolerated what is taking place at the local level."

Another problem is the winner-take-all electoral system, whereby the candidate with the largest plurality of the vote in each electoral district gets the seat, the group noted. Since Fatah has a plurality in most districts, the result is that Fatah would be guaranteed almost all the council seats even if opposition parties were running. Largely because of this fact, the major opposition parties - Hamas, the PFLP, the DFLP and Islamic Jihad - are all boycotting the elections.

"The goal of this system is to take a small majority... and turn it into a large majority after the elections," Polisar said.

Furthermore, while no candidate was rejected by the CEC, Arafat overruled the results of Fatah primaries in several districts, reordering the lists to replace candidates he disliked with

his loyalists. In addition, numerous candidates were bribed or threatened into withdrawing from the race. At least five candidates were given senior positions in PA ministries to persuade them to withdraw, Peace Watch said.

Thus, with opponents of Arafat within Fatah prevented from running and all the main opposition groups boycotting the election, the chances of a real opposition emerging on the council are very small, Polisar noted. And two additional factors make the chances even smaller: The extremely short campaign, which lasted a mere two and a half weeks, and the almost complete lack of election coverage on Palestinian TV and radio. The radio, for instance, has allowed a mere two minutes of speaking time per candidate. Polisar said, the short campaign and the lack of electronic media coverage both combine to give "an enormous advantage" to candidates with prior name recognition and candidates associated with Fatah.

Finally, the organization said, there have been many complaints that the distribution of seats is not proportionate to the population of the districts.

These charges cannot be checked, however, because the PA has declined to release the relevant census data.

"On the one hand, a democratic spirit is animating the Palestinian public. The public wants democracy... and this is a good sign for the future," senior researcher Pinhas Inbari summed up the situation. "But on the other hand, the PA is blocking this trend."

Palestinian candidates spent millions

CANDIDATES for the first Palestinian general elections are spending millions of dollars on their campaigns, with the money going toward printing posters, renting cellular phones and paying for newspaper advertisements that give voters very little information, economists say.

A West Bank researcher has estimated that the 676 candidates for the 88 seats on the legislative council will have spent more than \$30 million by election day on January 20.

"This is a lot of money, given that we are demanding economic assistance to build our economy," said Samir Hazboun, who runs an economic research and study center in Bethlehem.

"Economically speaking, this election campaign had wasted

millions of dollars that could have been invested in some productive projects," Hazboun said.

Though small by international standards, the costs are very high in an area which survives on international aid.

Donor countries have recently pledged \$1.3 billion for economic development and to improve the infrastructure. The European Union and the United States are also footing the bill for preparing and running the elections.

Lack of experience in running campaigns and short on time, candidates have relied heavily on thousands of portraits and on newspaper advertisements.

They have plastered the West Bank and Gaza Strip with portraits with brief explanations of their manifestos.

"Most candidates are addressing the voters by the portrait, as if they were movie stars and not political representatives," Hazboun said.

The Palestinian election law does not set a limit on the amount a candidate can spend and most candidates, unfamiliar with Western methods of fund-raising, are financing their campaigns from private funds.

Former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, who is running in the Jerusalem district, has publicly disclosed that some Palestinian businessmen have helped finance her campaign.

Although very few candidates are willing to disclose their budgets, the campaign managers of some candidates estimate that a campaign can cost between

\$30,000 and \$150,000.

"I am a millionaire and I am financing my election campaign," said 70-year-old Gaza City candidate Fayeq Khayyat, who has set aside \$30,000 for his campaign.

Some say they have spent as little as \$5,000.

Parties are partially financing the campaigns of their candidates from party funds. Activists in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, which has fielded the most candidates, say Fatah had allocated up to \$15,000 for each candidate.

Smaller parties say they barely have enough funds to print copies of their candidates' manifestos.

"The question now is who will foot the bill to clean up the walls and the streets after the elections," Hazboun said. (Reuters)

Foundation stone laid for \$60 m. Gaza port

DUTCH Prime Minister Wim Kok yesterday unveiled the foundation stone for a \$60 million port, designed to give the Gaza Strip a measure of independence from Israeli harbors.

In a brief ceremony under driving rain from the Mediterranean, Kok and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat then heaved symbolic shovelfuls of sand into a bulldozer, which dropped the sand into the sea.

The ceremony took place on the beach near the village of Sheikh Ijlin, about 4km south of Gaza City.

The Netherlands is the largest single donor to the project, with a contribution of \$25m. France will give \$20m, and Germany the balance of \$15m.

Majid al-Khalidi, director-general of the Palestinian department of planning and international cooperation, said work on the port would start in March and take 18 months to finish.

The port will be able to take ships up to what he called medium size. It was not immediately clear if a contractor had been selected for the work.

After inaugurating the Gaza port, Kok returned to Tel Aviv for a brief meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres before leaving the region.

"We opened a new chapter in our economic relations [and] explored a number of possibilities...to pave the way toward closer cooperation," Kok said at a news conference afterward.

Peres praised the "very imaginative economic projects" proposed by the Dutch and said the visit "enhanced the very friendly relations" between the two countries. But he added that the Orient House visit "totally unnecessary." (Reuters)

Israel-Jordan football match is played after all

A football match between Maccah Kafir Kanna and Jordanian champions Alwihadat went ahead in Amman yesterday, despite earlier reports the Jordanian team had refused to play because the Israeli Arab team might contain Jewish players.

"This is a victory for common sense and an honorable move by the Alwihadat management towards us, but first and foremost to themselves," said Kafir Kanna Local Council chairman Wasil Taha after hearing that the match had gone ahead.

Israel Radio reported that the Kafir Kanna team won the game by three goals to two. David Rudge

Kahalani brothers get 12 years for murder attempt

HERB KEINON

EITAN and Yehoyada Kahalani, convicted last year of attempted murder for trying to shoot a Palestinian man near Jerusalem, were sentenced by the Jerusalem District Court to 12 years in prison yesterday.

Their defense lawyer said he will appeal the sentence to the Supreme Court.

In the summer of 1994, the Kahalani brothers, from Kiryat Arba, waited near a dirt road leading to the village of Kafir Beitir, outside Jerusalem. When a 22-year-old Arab man came riding on his bicycle, each of the brothers loaded a rifle.

Eitan Kahalani stopped the man, pointed a gun at his head and - after making sure he was a Palestinian - pulled the trigger.

The gun did not fire, however, because a General Security Service agent had removed the firing pin.

District Court Judges Ruth Or, David Cheslin, and Ya'acov Bazak said in passing sentence, "Fortunately for the [intended] victim and for the accused, the GSS took out the firing pin and saved the life of the victim, and

saved the accused from spilling the blood of an innocent man."

The prosecution had asked for sentences of between 15 and 20 years, arguing that others who have been convicted of attempted

murder have been sentenced to 20 years. But, the court said, in those instances "blood was spilled and there was real [physical] harm. None of the precedents deals with an incident where the victim did not suffer any harm, as in our case."

ON SUNDAY - OUTLOOK DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

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A fraud and a hoax

NOT since the USSR's heyday has anyone abused the concept of democracy as cynically as the Palestinians are doing in the first political elections in their history. Methodically and thoroughly the Palestinian Authority - Yasser Arafat and the Fatah officials surrounding him - have emptied the democratic system of all meaning.

If there is anything admirable about the way the PA has prepared the elections, it is Arafat's skill in eliminating all serious opposition well before halloing day. The dirty work of intimidation, bribery, and suppression has been completed, and the voting will undoubtedly be orderly - as orderly as it is in Iraq and Syria, with results just as predictable.

Some of the PA abuses are listed in a final report on the Palestinian election campaign issued yesterday by Peace Watch. They include the arrests of opposition candidates and activists, the elimination by decree of Fatah candidates who have won primaries but not Arafat's approval, and bribes for candidates to induce them to withdraw from the race in return for jobs with the PA. The intimidation has been even-handed, directed with equal force against Islamic fundamentalist and radical opponents of the Fatah regime who oppose the Oslo agreement, and against those who are suspected of close ties to Israel.

An earlier Peace Watch report listed examples of media intimidation: the arrest and interrogation of the *Al Quds* editor who failed to obey an Arafat order to the letter, threats against other editors, banning of papers containing criticism of the PA, burning down newspaper plants, kidnapping of human rights activist Basam Eid for inveighing against some of the PA's abuses, and forcing papers to fire reporters who fail to toe the line. The Reporters Sans Frontieres organization has issued a report asserting that Palestinian television coverage of the cam-

aign was the exclusive preserve of Fatah.

But perhaps the most effective means devised by Arafat to ensure a Fatah victory was the division of the PA-ruled territories into 16 election districts, each of which elects up to 12 council members according to the size of its population. Since the election law stipulates that the winning party takes all the seats allotted to the district, a slim majority and even a plurality for Fatah is enough to eliminate all opposition representation. With the opposition split, it is almost impossible for Fatah not to come out the winner in every district, thus winning virtually all the seats.

At the beginning of the month, a statement titled "Enough is Enough" was issued by the head of the EU election unit, former Swedish diplomat Carl Lidbom. It questioned the independence of the election commission appointed by Arafat and the volume of decrees issued by Arafat, which changed the rules in mid-play.

Lidbom also decried violations which "add to the difficulties of the independent candidates and the opposition parties." In fact, the one unknown factor in the Saturday election is not the identity of the winners, but what the turnout will be. With Hamas and Islamic Jihad now boycotting the election and in some places actively campaigning against it, the number of non-voters may be a measure of the opposition's strength.

The election process has been funded mostly by the EU, which will have 300 observers in position in tomorrow's polling. Headed by outgoing Portuguese President Mario Soares, it will lead legitimacy and respectability to a fraud and a hoax. Other observer teams, from Yemen and Egypt, are far more suitable for this kind of farce. They will find it difficult to distinguish between Palestinian "democracy" and the dictatorial system with which they are familiar back home.

Indivisible terrorism

THE US has decided to show Islamic terrorists that it means business. The sentences meted out on Wednesday to Sheikh Abdel-Rahman and the group of fanatics he headed served notice to all terrorists who would threaten American lives that they will be punished to the full extent of the law.

The only complaint one can register about such commendable resolve is that it has made its appearance so late. It took the deaths of six Americans and the wounding of many hundreds of American soil before the US recognized the danger of the fanatic, Islamic fundamentalist movements. Even now the determination to act seems restricted to steps against terrorists operating in the US.

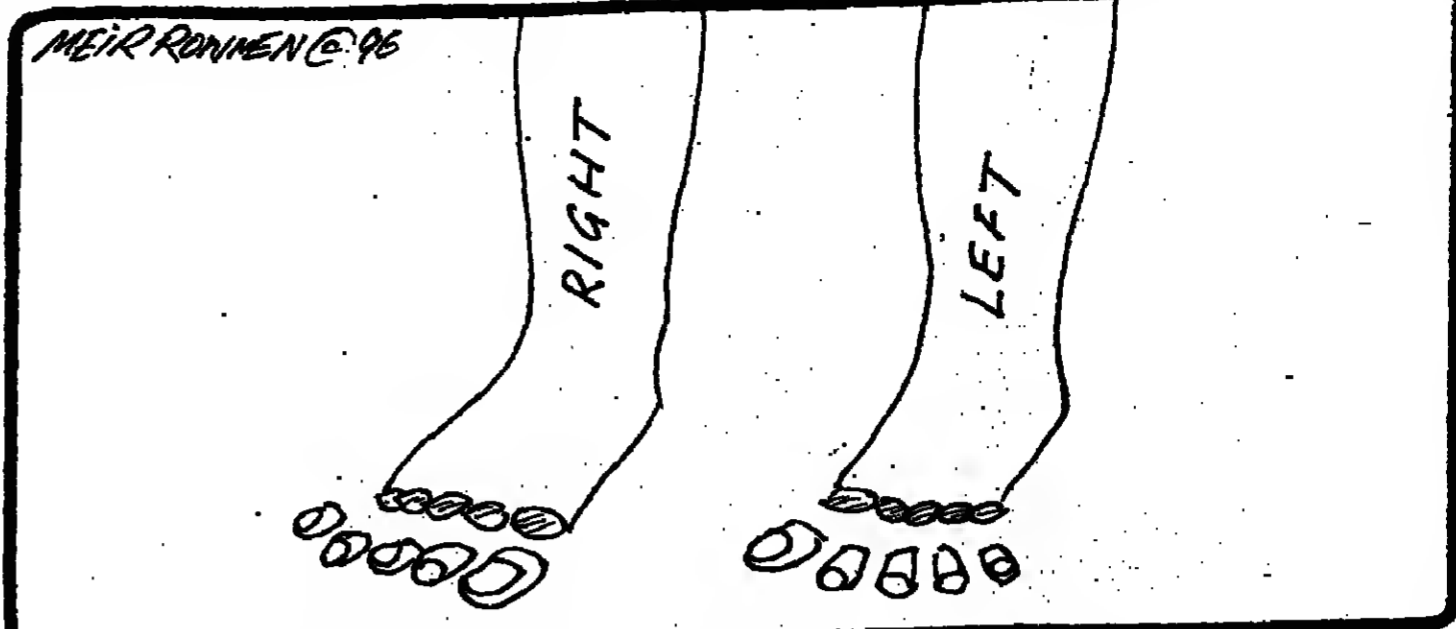
Steven Emerson, a leading expert on radical Islamic groups, has pointed out that Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzuk used to come and go as he pleased in the US for 14 years before his arrest. "Shuttling between Damascus, Sudan, Iran, Jordan, Europe, and the US, he helped establish a vast, clandestine financial network, an international labyrinth of front groups and death squads... As Hamas began its campaign of terror in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, it was being controlled and funded from the US," Emerson wrote in a *Wall Street Journal* article

last summer. The new head of Islamic Jihad was until recently a professor at a Florida university.

What may be even more startling than the ease with which Islamic terrorists have been able to establish a global infrastructure is that their supporters are not strictly Islamic fanatics. Among Marzuk's champions are the PLO, the American Moslem Council, and such reputed moderates as the president of the Arab American Institute, James Zogby. They have all asked the US to grant his wish to be deported rather than stand trial or be extradited to Israel.

For all his promises to fight terrorism, Yasser Arafat, too, consistently demands the release of Hamas terrorists. Earlier this week one of his lieutenants conditioned the changing of the PLO covenant on the release of all prisoners, including Hamas gunmen convicted of murder.

Israel must applaud the determination the US has shown in the case of the World Trade Center bombers and their cohorts, and it must show the same resolve in its treatment of terrorists here. And the US must understand that the war against terror is indivisible. To ignore the support Islamic terrorism receives from the Palestinian Authority is to make a mockery of the tough sentences against Abdel-Rahman and his group in New York.



Bad behavior is now the norm

CHAIM HERZOG

I am appalled by the disgraceful behavior allowed those accused of involvement in the assassination of our prime minister. The lack of appropriate decorum in the courts has been evident to the entire nation, if not the world. The atmosphere surrounding the accused is one of sheer disregard for the rules.

For example, despite the rules forbidding it, a cellular phone was made available in jail to the principal defendant.

The tragic fact is that an individual accused of murdering the prime minister gleefully thumbs his nose at a disgusted public - not to mention the court. And the authorities seem incapable of insisting on a modicum of dignity and decorum.

If it is the physical arrangements in court that preclude an atmosphere of dignity, they should be changed. One wonders if the bad behavior reveals a more serious problem in the administration of our legal system.

The courts and the police seem unable to prevent the disgraceful behavior of the accused and his friends in court. The authorities, whose purpose is to protect the nation from such phenomena, seem to lack control.

It would be difficult to imagine such laxness in other Western countries. In England, for instance, such contempt of court would lead to substantial periods

of imprisonment. But what is evident every time these people appear in court is a feeling of resignation in the face of such misbehavior. This feeling of frustration and loss of authority gives much cause for concern.

Another example of the weakness of those in authority and a lack of standards occurred when the prime minister requested that

would have punished the recalcitrants with just a few weeks' detention. One can only hope that the lightness of the sentence does not reflect the type of negligence which could lead to tragedy and heavy loss of life.

The suspicion remains that the police, and other authorities, have come in to accept infringe-

The courts, police, army and media all seem to go along with the current decline in standards

all ministers sign a declaration of secrecy.

Everyone is aware of the epidemic of leaks from cabinet meetings. Imagine what would happen in Britain or the US if, as happened here, a minister refused to sign. He would have forfeited his job that very day.

THE malaise in public life even extends to the military.

In a very serious incident some weeks ago, a military unit on the Lebanese border abandoned its positions in the face of the enemy. No other army in the world

meets of discipline as the norm. Surely this is cause for grave concern. It seems our society is incapable of honoring either standards or the laws that are so vital to our democracy.

In addition, the level of provincialism has risen in many aspects of our life.

A classic example is the publication of the name of the head of the General Security Service. Judging by the media headlines, the fact that his name never used to be published was a grave assault on the basic human rights of every citizen in Israel. Suddenly salvation came from above, his

name was published, and the people of Israel breathed a collective sigh of relief.

But why is it so important to know the name of the GSS head? Has the publication of this information improved the everyday life of a single Israeli?

For the life of me, I fail to understand the screaming headlines, or the sly, satisfied smiles on the faces of the television announcers when the GSS boss's name was revealed. The only fitting public reaction to such a revelation, surely, was "Big deal!"

The upshot was that the life of a committed and faithful family has been endangered. What a brilliant achievement for the media! What a scoop!

The issue is complex. But what took place was a flagrant violation of the censorship law, ostensibly in the cause of freedom of the press.

Those who so blatantly bypassed the censorship include many of those who constantly invoke the importance of the rule of law.

Have we learned the lesson of the terrible tragedy of November 4, 1995, in what is now known as Rabin Square? Are we doomed to continue to live from one court of inquiry to the next?

The writer was Israel's sixth president.

As Palestinians vote, Israelis hope

MARK A. HELLER

THE importance of the Palestinian elections for Israel is twofold.

In the first instance, they are intended to serve as a kind of referendum on the peace process. Theoretically, the results should reveal whether the commitment Yasser Arafat has made to a future of peaceful existence with Israel is merely the act of an individual and the organization he controls, or also reflects the majority (though certainly not the unanimous) sentiment of the people on whose behalf this undertaking was given.

The need to test the legitimacy, in Palestinian eyes, of any agreement involving Israeli concessions explains why Israel has always been responsive, at least in principle, to the longstanding Palestinian demand for elections, and why even the government headed by Yitzhak Shamir, which would have no truck or trade with the PLO, incorporated a provision for elections in its 1989 peace proposal.

Unfortunately, while the outcome of the vote is highly predictable, the election is unlikely to provide the kind of conclusive evidence that Israelis would like to see.

The difficulty is not that the Islamic opposition is refusing to participate, thereby denying Palestinian voters a real choice and Israeli observers a chance to draw meaningful conclusions. If Hamas had run, it would have lost badly - indeed, it was probably the fear of a dismal showing, rather than a reluctance to legitimize the Oslo framework, that explains its decision not to take part - but that would not have made the outcome any clearer.

The real reason for uncertainty is that the winner himself embodies the kind of ambiguity that can justify almost any Israeli interpretation of his basic worldview.

The election may resolve any lingering doubts about whom Arafat represents, but what he represents will remain an open question.

THE SECOND function of the elections is to serve as a harbinger of Palestinian democracy.

Regardless of what one thinks of Arafat's repeated assertion that the PLO was itself an expression of Palestinian democracy, this is the first opportunity to give that notion a territorial application. This dimension of the elections also has

significance for Israel, because of the widespread assumption that democracies are more inclined to peace.

In particular, the hypothesis that democracies do not fight each other has become an axiom in the study of international relations, and an article of faith among many political leaders. Theoretically, a successful exercise in democratic elections should be reassuring.

But on this score, too, the elections are unlikely to be a defining moment. Even if they are general-

ciety, rather than the other way around: the rule of law (including an independent judiciary), free media, free enterprise, tolerance of diversity, a culture of compromise, and the development of associations that transcend family, clan or tribal loyalties, but are independent of government.

There is no iron law of history that precludes a functioning Palestinian democracy, but neither the overall experience of Arab countries nor the specific record of the Palestinian Authority thus far is

But tomorrow's poll is unlikely to provide conclusive evidence of the legitimacy of the Oslo framework

ly free and fair - and the international monitoring and media attention promise that they will be, widespread irregularities notwithstanding - the equation between elections and democracy is, at best, incomplete; at worst, a serious distortion of reality.

What distinguishes a functioning democracy from public approval of authoritarian rule are the structural institutions and underlying socio-cultural attitudes that preserve the autonomy of individuals and minorities and make the state accountable and subordinate to so-

especially promising. It is true that circumstances have not been supportive - neither the host countries in which most diaspora Palestinians live nor the military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza provided a congenial environment - and it is also true that the Palestinian political system is still in its embryonic stage.

Nevertheless, there is already widespread evidence of the arbitrary use of power (illegal detentions, convictions for ill-defined infractions such as "damage to national security," closures of

newspapers, etc.) as well as intolerance of insufficient enthusiasm for the political leadership, much less open dissent. Nor is there much resistance, apart from some intellectuals, to the idea that individual freedoms should be subordinated to some romanticized collective orthodoxy.

The Palestinian elections could be the first institutional step on the road to a functioning democracy, but it is no guarantee that democracy will not be aborted at an early stage, or even that the election will not itself become the instrument for that.

Israel, even more than other outside parties, may have some marginal impact through its political and economic actions, but these are primarily issues for the Palestinians themselves to work out, and the long-term outcome is far from assured.

The elections are thus likely to clarify things only for those Israelis who already know the peace process is either worthwhile or worthless. But those who occasionally admit some uncertainty and hope that the elections will finally clarify matters are likely to be disappointed. For them, the morning after will look the same as the morning before.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US ELECTIONS

Sir, - We would like to remind all US citizens in Israel to be sure and exercise their rightful franchise by voting in the US November 5 elections. Overseas Americans ought to vote for all federal offices, that is for president/vice-president, as well as for members of House and Senate. To do so, you must first re-register and request an absentee ballot from your local board of election. Aside from obtaining the FPCA cards at the three US Consulates (Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv), we, together with Republicans Abroad, the US Embassy, AACI and The Jerusalem Post are co-sponsoring a number of in-the-field registration drives to try and make the voting process as convenient as possible. Inwards that end, the following registrations will take place:

- 1) In Beersheba: February 13, 5-7 p.m., at the AACI, 21 Sokolov St.
- 2) In Ra'anana: February 21, 5-7 p.m., at Yed L'Balim, corner of Ahuzta and Ben-Gurion St.
- 3) In Haifa: March 13, 4-6 p.m., at the AACI, 8 Wedgewood St.
- 4) In Rehovot: March 19, 4-6 p.m., at the Berman Synagogue, at the end of Hagra St.

A consular official will be present at each of these sessions. You must bring a valid US passport to prove US citizenship.

For the first time this year, the FPCA cards are also available at all regional AACI offices. They will also have a new US Voter's Guide which lists every local election board's address in whom you have

LEBANON'S ROLE

Sir, - We read many articles indicating that Israel's government is willing to agree on Syria's domination in Lebanon in exchange for a peace treaty with Damascus. Such a deal should not be accepted nor encouraged by the US government for the following reasons:

- 1. A peace agreement between two countries cannot be based on an injustice inflicted on a third country. Such deals in the past have led to genocide and greater wars. Israel and Syria should find ways to ensure peace between their peoples other than offering Lebanon to Syria's dictatorial regime.
- 2. Israel's abandonment of the Christians of Lebanon will affect Jewish-Christian relationship and trigger another wave of anti-Semitism worldwide.
- 3. Israel and the US cannot abandon the Christians of Lebanon, particularly the population of the southern security zone, to the Syrian bully. Such a move will be the moral and political responsibility of Washington's and Jerusalem's government.
- 4. Lebanon and its Christian community should be granted self-determination and freedom. Israel should not withdraw from South Lebanon before Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and the deployment of international troops all over Lebanon.

SHAWKY F. KARAS, President, The American Copic Association Jersey City, N.J.

- 1) In Tel Aviv: March 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., US Embassy, 71 Hayarkon St.
- 2) In Netanya: March 27, 4-6 p.m., at the AACI, 28 Shmuel Hanatziv St.
- 3) In Jerusalem: March 28, 2-4 p.m., US Consulate, 27 Nablus Rd.; March 28, 5-7 p.m., at the AACI, 6 Maneh St.

After each workshop session, those present may register and fill out the request cards for an absentee ballot. For further information watch additional notices in the Post, contact your nearest US facility, or call (08) 945-7671.

DAVID FROELICH, Democrats Abroad (Israel) Rehovot.

مكتبة القدس

Like blood in our veins

MOSHE ZAK

THE Israeli-Syrian talks at Wye Plantation aren't yet negotiations. Foreign Minister Barak rightly said this week that, at the moment, the talks constitute only "feelers."

These feelers are meant to investigate whether a basis for negotiations exists at all. Yet after each round of talks, Israelis are assured that "it's moving, we're making progress."

The total obscurity in which the talks are taking place recalls nothing so much as a seance. People sit in a darkened room, bending over a table with a cup in the middle, eagerly waiting for the cup to move, indicating the arrival of a spirit in answer to the medium's call.

The silence is broken by an excited cry: "The cup is moving!" The ensuing excitement blurs the border between what the participants hope will happen, and what is really happening.

On the table at Wye Plantation, Assad's cup isn't moving at all. But the burning desire of our delegation's head to prove that more progress can be made in four days than in all the years of talks (in which he didn't participate), is enough to move a great number of cups. That's why he terms anyone, even the foreign minister, who casts doubt on the nature of this progress as "pessimistic."

The only Syrian movement was achieved away from Maryland, in the recent talks in Damascus. Syrian Foreign Minister Shara announced this week that he and Secretary Christopher had agreed on the end of 1996 as the target date for completion of the talks. What this means for Israel remains to be seen.

Syria's promise to the US that Hizbullah aggression in Lebanon would be curbed was balanced this week by the Syrians encouraging their vassals in Beirut to threaten the life of Gen. Antoine Lahad, Israel's ally in southern Lebanon.

Then there is the long list of noes Israel has totted up in the "feeler" talks with the Syrians: Jewish settlements will not be allowed to remain on the Golan

under Syrian rule. Buildings may remain, but not settlers.

Warning stations will not be permitted on Syrian territory, not even manned by Americans.

The Syrians will not give up one centimeter of the land that was in their possession when the Six Day War broke out, not even the territory beyond the international border that the Syrian army occupied illegally in 1948.

The Syrians will not agree to joint Israeli-Syrian economic projects on the Golan Heights.

Concerned over Israel's damaging influence on the Syrian economy and regime, the Syrians will not take any interest in full normalization of relations.

When it comes to water, Israel cannot rely on quasi-movement in seance-like talks

They will not agree to redeployment on the Golan over a period of years.

ALL THIS is before the investigation of the central question: Water.

In internal Israeli debates on Golan withdrawal, it has been brought up that back in 1967, the government expressed its willingness to withdraw to the international border with Syria.

This isn't quite accurate. Israel did not propose withdrawal, but peace negotiations with Syria on the basis of the international border and Israeli security needs, on condition that water be freely allowed to flow from its sources in the north into the Kinneret.

After all, in the years before the war, the Israelis had been harassed by Syrian attempts to keep this essential resource from them through diversion efforts that were supported by the Arab League.

The motives were political, not hydrological. And Syria is doing exactly the same thing to Jordan, taking 230 million cubic meters of water from the Yarmuk, instead of the 90 million it needs. Syria is wasting water which Jordan needs.

To quench Jordan's thirst, Israel agreed, as part of the peace treaty, to allocate 50 million cu.m. of its own water to Jordan. It is thus vitally important that Syria's hand should not control the tap on the water that reaches the Kinneret.

Thus the question isn't just Syria's closeness to the Kinneret shore, but the danger of our losing control of the water sources flowing to the lake.

This is the background to Barak's warnings regarding the water issue. And he's in distinguished company. In 1917, Chaim Weizmann expressed his concern over the borders fixed at the end of World War I in the Sykes-Picot Treaty, which took vital water sources out of the British Mandate, endangering the establishment of the Jewish national home.

And in 1949, David Ben-Gurion rejected Syrian leader Hosni Zaim's proposal to meet and discuss peace because of the condition: sharing the water of the Kinneret.

When the Syrians prevented water from reaching the Kinneret in 1964, Levi Eshkol warned Lyndon Johnson that Israelis valued water as if it were blood in their veins, and were willing to fight for it.

Indeed, in cabinet meetings during June 1967, the need to ensure our water sources was heavily emphasized. A threat in this direction was considered an overwhelming casus belli, even more than the Syrian guns on the Golan.

When it comes to water, Israel cannot rely on imaginary movements in seance-like talks. Our ability to absorb mass immigration, indeed our very existence, depends on our free access to water sources which were wasted when Syria ruled the Golan, and which now benefit us so much.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



Skewed rules of the game

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

SOMEONE must have been telling lies about Joseph K., relates Franz Kafka, in the opening sentence of his bewildering novel *The Trial*. His anonymous hero, K., "without having done anything wrong," is "arrested one fine morning" to be brought before a tribunal on a charge which is never specified.

Another K., outgoing chief of the General Security Service, is no longer anonymous. He has been identified as Karmi Gillon, grandson of Gad Frumkin, the only Jewish member of the Supreme Court under the British Mandate; son of Colin Gillon, state attorney in the 1950s, and Saada Gillon, deputy attorney-general during the same period, and brother of Alon Gillon, registrar of the Supreme Court.

Despite this impressive legal lineage, the GSS's K. is having as much difficulty coping with his tribunal, the Shamgar Commission investigating the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, as Kafka's K. had in coping with his.

Like Kafka's K., Gillon claims that someone has been spreading lies about him.

In a letter to Justice Meir Shamgar, he charged that inaccurate reports appearing in the press have hurt him personally and impaired his ability to defend himself before the commission. In reply, Shamgar denied that the reports emanated from the commission, and declared that "the matter is between you and the media. It is in your hands to show the writers of these things that they are incorrect."

Continued Shamgar: "The commission has no intention of responding to the different media reports."

When it comes to dealing with the press, what is Gillon's responsibility, and what is the commission's?

The Agranat Commission, which investigated the Yom Kippur War, stressed that the rules of sub judice apply to judicial commissions of inquiry. The purpose of these rules, declared the commission, is not only to protect the deliberations of the commission, but also "to prevent the creation of prejudices on the part of the public through 'trial by the press' with regard to what the tribunal is obligated to conclude with regard to the matter pending before it."

The Agranat Commission pointed to the influence, even at a subconscious level, of slanted reporting. In contrast, Shamgar, in his reply to Gillon, left the problem of

dealing with the slanted reports to Gillon himself, assuring him that "the commission will discuss and decide on matters only with regard to the relevant facts, as they are presented."

True, the Shamgar Commission, at the outset of its work, appealed both to the GSS and the police to prevent unauthorized reports on the matters before the commission.

What of the responsibility of the press? The Agranat Commission emphasized this responsibility, calling on the attorney-general for appropriate action. Shamgar himself condemned leaks and slanted reporting in the 1987 Nafsu case, which also involved the GSS.

K.'s chief sin? He wasn't 'covered'

INVOKING the rules of sub judice is worlds away from leaving the matter between Gillon and the media.

The public atmosphere, as influenced by press coverage, shapes expectations on the part of the public with regard to the investigating committee's conclusions. It also shapes the options for decision of those whose actions are under review.

It might very well be at least a contributing factor in bringing Gillon, less than a year after his appointment, to his decision to resign.

Those at the top of the administrative pyramid are not only subject to trial by the press. They must also survive trial by ordeal. If there is a foul-up, they are responsible. They pay for failure by resigning or by removal from office.

If the aim is punishment, this norm makes sense. It also makes sense if the purpose is to satisfy the mass appetite for vengeance. However, if the objective is to improve the performance of the public service, removing the man at the top is a highly questionable way of going about it.

For one thing, it discourages

delegation of authority and the responsibility that goes with it.

If his job is on the line, why would the head of an organization opt for decentralization? At the extreme, he will deal with every small detail, rather than concentrating on the major problems that should occupy the senior administrator.

In Israel, the top office-holder is often praised for having every last detail at his fingertips. As often as not, this may be a sign of faulty organization.

The chief of the GSS isn't doing his job if he deals with the security arrangements surrounding every public appearance of the prime minister.

If the penalty for failure is resignation or dismissal, there is little incentive for initiative or any form of risk-taking. The decision-maker will not ask himself, "Am I right?" He will ask "Am I covered?"

Gillon apparently concluded that he had been condemned in the trial by the press. In the trial by ordeal, the national trauma of the Rabin assassination, he was a sure loser.

Whether or not he was personally at fault, or, in Kafka's words, "without having done anything wrong," under today's questionable rules of the game the fledgling GSS chief, much like Kafka's K., simply wasn't covered.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

The war that needn't have been

MOSHE ARENS

IT is said that nothing succeeds like success. And indeed, at first glance, the victory of the allied forces, under American leadership, over Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war five years ago seems like a success.

However, on closer examination of the entire episode - the events leading to the crisis, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the six-week war - what emerges is a succession of errors in judgment and faulty intelligence. And, after the Western powers had concentrated the greatest armadas of air and sea power the world had ever seen, in addition to half a million men on the ground, victory against an almost helpless enemy was incomplete.

Israel - supposedly an ally against a common enemy - became the victim of missile attacks against its civilian population.

At first, the Western world decided to embrace the ruthless Iraqi dictator who, breaking an agreement he had personally signed with Iran, invaded that country in expectation of a quick victory. Saddam's use of chemical warfare against the Iraqis, as well as against Iraqi Kurdish villagers, was ignored.

Saddam's project aimed at attaining a nuclear capability was well-known, but disregarded. His continuing threats against Israel seemed of no interest to the rest

of the world. For many years Washington provided him with intelligence information and large-scale loan guarantees that were used for military procurement. France sold Saddam a nuclear reactor (destroyed, fortunately for all, by Israel's Air Force in 1981) as well as the latest in French weaponry.

Many of Europe's industries supplied components and tools for Saddam's chemical, nuclear,

and missile programs. Western democracies were thus instrumental in helping Saddam rebuild and increase his military capabilities after the inconclusive end of the long Iran-Iraq war; worse yet, it was they who led him to believe that he could get away with further aggression.

Even when in April 1990, four months before his invasion of Kuwait, Saddam publicly threatened to use chemical weapons against Israel, the Bush administration refused Israel's request for mutual consultations to enable the formulation of an effective response.

The lesson that dictators must

not be aided and appeased had to be learned again, the hard way.

US DEPUTY secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger, dispatched to Jerusalem by president Bush a few days before the initiation of hostilities, assured the Israeli government that the Scud threat to Israel would be eliminated during the first 24 hours of fighting. Actually, the US military was totally unpre-

The allied victory over Iraq was a resounding success... Or was it?

pared for the task of eliminating the Scud threat.

Not a single one of the mobile launchers used against Israel was destroyed during the war, and Israel's civilian population paid the penalty for this misjudgment.

The purpose of Eagleburger's mission was to obtain Israel's assurance that it would not take preemptive action against the missile launchers, and, in addition, that even if missiles were launched against Israel, Israel would not respond, leaving the US to deal with that threat.

Israel agreed to the first request, but rejected the second point-blank.

Eagleburger then presented the US "fallback" position he had brought with him; namely, that if Israel were attacked by missiles and decided to respond, US forces would "stand down" and allow Israel to operate in the relevant Iraqi airspace.

But when the Scuds started wreaking destruction on Israel's cities, Bush temporized, cajoled, and finally unceremoniously reneged on his commitment to Israel. Instead, the claim was put forth in Washington that the US Patriot anti-aircraft missiles were successfully intercepting the Scuds. It was a claim that had no foundation in reality.

Only after five weeks of aerial bombardment were the allied ground forces finally put into motion - then halted precipitously after four days by Bush before any serious damage had been done to Saddam Hussein's army.

After a momentous effort involving the mobilization of vast resources, the Iraqi dictator continues in power in Baghdad, still boasting of his missile attacks against Israel.

The Gulf war could have been prevented. Once it became inevitable, it should have been fought to a decisive victory. To Israel, it served as a reminder that the enemy of your enemy is not necessarily your friend.

The writer was defense minister during the Gulf war.

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Russia ends hostage siege

Turkey hardens stance against pro-Chechen hijackers of ferry

(Reuter) - Russian troops ended a four-day hostage siege yesterday with a huge show of force that left Chechen bodies scattered on the battlefield and President Boris Yeltsin hailing victory over the rebels.

Yeltsin said 82 of about 100 hostages held by the rebels for more than a week had been freed and search parties would look for the rest.

"The operation is completed. All the bandits have been destroyed," Yeltsin announced, after Russian troops battered the southern village of Pervomayskoye with rockets and shells on the fourth day of a fierce onslaught.

Television footage showed the mangled bodies of rebels - some still smoldering from rocket fire, some dismembered - in fields and ditches outside the village.

Yeltsin, who had been under pressure from his political foes to end the crisis fast but avoid the deaths of the hostages, did not make clear how many of the captives had been killed, although he said 26 Russian servicemen had died.

Despite Yeltsin's exultant air and the victory over the guerrillas, analysts in Moscow said it was too early to say what the political fallout would be for the Kremlin leader.

The Russians launched their operation on Monday to rescue the hostages. But they stepped up the attack with Grad rockets and heavy artillery on Wednesday, saying it was impossible to save any more hostages.

Yeltsin was quick to hail the operation as a major triumph over Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"We have taught Dudayev a sound lesson and we now need to

strike at all the Dudayev strongholds where there are no civilians in order to do away with terrorism on Russian soil," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted Yeltsin as saying.

He linked the operation with the seizure by pro-Chechen gunmen of a Black Sea passenger ferry with more than 200 people in Turkey.

"It [terrorism] has already spread to Turkey, which means one can wait no longer. This is already international terrorism," he said.

Meanwhile, Turkey yesterday hardened its stance towards the hijackers, putting in doubt earlier hopes the ordeal would soon end.

Interior Minister Teoman Uysan vowed not to let the Avrasya ferry boat, seized on Tuesday by pro-Chechen gunmen, into Istanbul's strategic Bosphorus strait.

The state-run Anatolian news agency denied its own report, filed on Wednesday, that Turkey's secret service chief had promised the hijackers safe passage to Istanbul in return for the release of the hostages, most of whom are Russians.

Authorities have not indicated what steps they were now prepared to take to keep the ferry, which was sailing about 210 km east of the Bosphorus, from the strait.

The hijackers seized the ferry on Tuesday night in the Turkish port of Trabzon to protest Moscow's treatment of Chechnya. They threatened to blow it up in the Bosphorus, along with any Russians on board.

"We cannot let the ship go into the Bosphorus because it was carrying explosives and this is against international law," Uysan told the ATV television station.

Nine foreigners killed in German arson attack

CLAUS-PETER TIEMANN
LUEBECK

A SUSPECTED arson fire raged through an immigrant home yesterday, killing at least nine people and injuring 55. Police detained three neo-Nazis on suspicion of carrying out Germany's deadliest anti-foreigner attack since World War II.

Three children were among those killed in the blaze that broke out at 3:40 a.m. in a four-story apartment building housing Africans, Lebanese, Syrians and Poles in this north German port.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the suspects were right-wing extremists and that one was a skinhead. They were being held on suspicion of arson and murder.

One panicked woman jumped to her death from the burning home holding her child in her arms, police said. The child was hospitalized with severe injuries.

The turn-of-the-century building was a smoking shell, its white-washed walls blackened around holes where windows were. Many African immigrants flocked to the building near Luebeck's port during the day to inquire about friends and relatives.

Police did not immediately release the identity of the victims but said the dead included three children. The African residents apparently were from Zaire and Angola.

Luebeck mayor Michael Bontel called on townspeople to gather at the scene for an evening demonstration.

Police investigators said they were investigating the fire and did not rule out "a technical defect" as cause.

Earlier, Luebeck public prosecutor Michael Boeckenhauer said the fire started simultaneously in several places, indicating arson.



Firefighters extinguish the flames of a burning asylum seekers home that was set ablaze in Luebeck yesterday. (AP)

In Burgwedel, about 180 kilometers southwest of Luebeck, unknown suspects tried to set ablaze a shelter for refugees from former Yugoslavia early yesterday.

Someone spread flammable liquid in the dwelling and set it alight but the asylum seekers put out the fire before it caused major damage, police said.

Attacks against foreigners and Jewish targets in Germany soared after unification in 1990. The violence, which included several notorious incidents in the east, raised fears of a neo-Nazi threat in Germany.

Attacks have declined since a 1993 peak. German authorities have arrested hundreds of neo-

Nazis, banned several groups and infiltrated the scene.

Luebeck has seen right-wing violence in the past. Young neo-Nazis firebombed the city's synagogue on Pessah 1994, and arsonists set fire to the synagogue's storeroom last May.

In Germany's worst previous attack, a 1993 firebombing in So-

lingen in western Germany killed five Turkish women and children. Four right-wing extremists were convicted in the attack.

Yesterday's fire came a day after President Ezer Weizman ended an official visit to Germany during which he urged the country to remain vigilant against racism and neo-Nazism. (AP)

Former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan dies at 59

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - Former Rep. Barbara Jordan, whose ringing oratory made her the voice of moral authority during the impeachment hearings for president Richard Nixon, has died at age 59.

Jordan - one of the first two blacks elected to Congress from the South since the Reconstruction era after the American Civil War - died of pneumonia believed to be a complication of leukemia on Wednesday, said George Christian, a Democratic insider and former press secretary to president Lyndon B. Johnson.

"When Barbara spoke with that deep, booming voice, it was as though she was speaking from tablets of stone," former treasury secretary Lloyd Beetsen said. "She had a presence as few people do."

Jordan also had been ill for several years with multiple sclerosis, and used a wheelchair and walker. She nearly drowned in 1988 when she lost consciousness in her backyard swimming pool.

Her life was a series of firsts: In 1966, Jordan, a Democrat, was elected to the state Senate, the first black member since 1883 and the first black woman ever elected to the Texas Legislature.

In 1972, she became the first black woman elected to Congress from the South. Andrew Young of Georgia also won office that year; they were the first blacks sent to Congress from the South since the

aftermath of the Civil War.

Once considered a possible vice presidential candidate, Jordan left politics after three terms in the House of Representatives, choosing to teach at the University of Texas. Shunning the limelight, she devoted her energies to her students, who fondly called her "BJ."

Always, there was her voice - formal, deep, powerful and carefully enunciated, befitting the daughter of a Baptist minister.

Former Rep. Peter Rodino, chairman of the Judiciary Committee when she was in Congress, recalled his first meeting with her: "She came in to see me, I'll never forget, opened her mouth, spoke a few words, and I remember thinking, 'This is a woman I certainly want on this committee.'"

She won a national reputation during the committee's 1974 hearings on whether to impeach president Nixon.

"My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total," she declared before a national television audience, "and I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

At the time of her death, Jordan was chairwoman of the independent US Commission on Immigration Reform.

She is survived by her mother, Arlyne Jordan, and two sisters.

US mediator hopes Bosnian prisoners will be freed soon

SARAJEVO (Reuter) - The US architect of Bosnia's peace plan said yesterday he was hopeful Bosnian government objections to freeing prisoners of war could be overcome before a key weekend deadline in the peace process.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke flew into Sarajevo to try to break the impasse part of the Dayton peace agreement that looked set to be breached.

The Moslem-led government has refused to free its prisoners of war, as they are bound to do by midnight tonight, until separatist Serbs account for thousands of missing Moslems, many of whom are feared dead.

The US has rushed to resolve the issue, fearing any breach in the accord would be an incentive for further refusals to implement unpopular parts of the peace deal.

"One of the issues we spent a lot of time on today was the question of prisoner releases," said Holbrooke after meeting Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and premier Haris Silajdzic.

"We hope that they will go forward as they should tomorrow," he added, but refused to give details of

the government's negotiating position before he met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade.

Holbrooke said he and diplomats representing Britain, France, Germany and Russia, had come to Sarajevo to make clear neither the deadlines nor the contents of the Dayton deal would be changed. He rejected the linkage the government has made between missing people and prisoners and underlined that American diplomatic muscle would be used to solve the problem.

"The incentives and pressure for compliance in this, while not unlimited, are much more substantial than some pessimists would have it," said Holbrooke.

Holbrooke said his colleague, US human rights envoy John Shattuck, was given top-level orders to accompany him to deal directly with government claims Serbs had left names of Moslems off prisoner lists so they could be kept for forced labor.

More effort was also to be put into calming the fears of thousands of ordinary Serbs living around Sarajevo, who have threatened to leave their homes rather than stay when their areas are handed to the government.

'Fergie's debts much higher than thought'

LONDON (Reuter) - Debts run up by the Duchess of York, the daughter-in-law of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, are much higher than previously thought and she is being pursued by angry creditors, the Sun newspaper said yesterday.

The paper, which has broken a string of exclusive stories about the royal family's travails, said the duchess owed around £3 million and not £1m, as earlier reported.

"Furious creditors are lining up to push the duchess into bankruptcy," said the best-selling tabloid daily.

The queen made it clear on Wednesday she would not bail out the duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, in a move the Sun said could spark panic among creditors.

The newspaper also said the duchess's bank had summoned Ferguson - known as Fergie - three times for showdowns over her high spending.

But Ferguson, estranged wife of the queen's second son Andrew, laughed off her worries and told the newspaper: "I'm not on the headline."

Ferguson was due to fly to the US yesterday for a charity engagement.

Sheik Abdel-Rahman supporters condemn harsh sentences

CAIRO (AP) - Supporters of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman yesterday condemned the harsh sentences he and nine followers received for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks. One supporter called it evidence of a US bias against Moslems.

Magdy Ahmed Hussein, editor of the Islamic-oriented Al-Shaab newspaper, said Abdel-Rahman's life sentence Wednesday damaged the reputation of the American judicial system.

"The sentences... were clearly based on political and not legal considerations," said Hussein, whose paper described the trial as another attack by the West against Islam and Moslems.

Eight of Abdel-Rahman's followers received prison terms ranging from 25 to 57 years. The ninth, El Sayyid Nosair, received a life sentence for his role in the bomb plot and for killing Kach leader Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York in 1990.

The men were convicted of plotting to bomb the United Nations, FBI offices, two tunnels

and a bridge in the New York area in an effort to force a change in US policies in the Middle East.

Moutasser el-Zayat, a lawyer who defended the sheik in Egypt, called the sentences part of a "fever against Islam, Moslems and Arabs in the American media dominated by Zionists."

"The jury was made up of normal citizens who were definitely influenced by this anti-Islam campaign," he added.

Egypt's government-controlled media played down the sentences, much as they treated the entire trial. The government may have been reluctant to give attention to the sheik and his followers.

Abdel-Rahman was tried in Egypt in 1981 for acting as a spiritual guide for the Jihad group, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. He was acquitted.

But another court sentenced him in absentia to seven years in prison for instigating riots in his hometown of Fayyum, 80 kilometers south of Cairo.

French court bans tell-all Mitterrand cancer book

SANDRINE BRICLOT
PARIS

A PARIS court yesterday banned a tell-all book by Francois Mitterrand's physician disclosing that the late French president covered up his cancer for a decade and charging he was too sick to serve for part of his second term.

Mitterrand's family had asked the court to block sales of *Le Grand Secret* (The Big Secret) by Dr. Claude Gubler, arguing that his publication on Wednesday had breached the doctor's vow of medical secrecy and invaded the

late ex-president's privacy. Publishers Pion said all 40,000 copies of the book's first print-run had been sold in the first 24 hours and an undisclosed number of additional copies were on order.

But Judge Jacqueline Cochard ruled the first would be fined 1,000 francs for each sale of the 98-franc book following the ruling.

Gubler's attorney Bernard Ca-

ben argued the public had a right to know about the president's health.

Gubler's book also stirred controversy by saying that Mitterrand had been so ill that he was physically incapable of serving as president for several months around November 1994 - a contention hotly denied by members of his cabinet at the time.

The threat of a ban helped boost sales of Gubler's book, which went on sale just nine days after Mitterrand's death. (Reuter)

WORLD BRIEFS

Simitis elected new Greek prime minister
ATHENS (Reuter) - Costas Simitis, a technocrat and party reformer, was elected Greece's new prime minister yesterday by the ruling socialist parliamentary group to replace party founder Andreas Papandreu who resigned this week. Simitis scored 86 votes and socialist Interior Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos scored 75 votes, the president of the socialist parliamentary group, Dimitris Beis, told reporters.

Gaddafi says Arab unity a distant dream
SIDI BARRANI, Egypt (Reuter) - Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi said yesterday Arab unity was now a distant dream because some Arab rulers chose to serve the interests of Israel.

"It is difficult to clear the Arab atmosphere now because the enemy (Israel) has penetrated deeply into the Arab region and there are Arabs who are promoting the (interests) of these parties," Gaddafi told a joint news conference after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Billiards player Minnesota Fats dies
NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) - Minnesota Fats, the sharp shooting, boastful billiard wizard portrayed in the movie *The Hustler*, died yesterday, a day before his birthday. Fats died of congestive heart failure, his wife, Theresa Ellwandron, said. His age was a matter of dispute. Associates said he was born January 19, 1900, but a 1966 biography, *Bank Shot*, listed his date of birth as January 19, 1913.

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Grandchildren and great-grandson in N.Y. and U.S.A.

We mourn the passing of our good friend and in-law
SHLOMO RAPAPORT
We offer our condolences to the family.
His memory will live in our hearts forever.
Rosalind, Haim and Alissa Levy

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great grandmother
ROSL LINK
née Lang
The funeral took place yesterday.
Please refrain from condolence visits.
The Bereaved Family



NEWS IN FOCUS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1996

Palestinian elections do not guarantee democracy

Tomorrow's elections are the start of a new political culture, Jon Immanuel writes

TOMORROW'S elections to the new Palestinian Authority Council represent the most important development since Oslo 1. They do not guarantee democracy, but they do bring ordinary people into the process of reconstructing Palestinian society.

A year ago many Palestinians said Israel did not want elections and neither did PLO leader Yasser Arafat. But in the end, the opposition called for delaying and boycotting them while Arafat pushed ahead.

At best, the Palestinian council will begin a process of democratization, which will make Palestinian society unique in the Arab world. At worst, Arafat will maintain autocratic powers through his famous temper tantrums and his armed police. But the fact that many of his subordinates will feel they now have the support of an electorate behind them will make such a stance more difficult.

Most sophisticated observers see these elections as insufficient, but a preparation for real elections, to be held within four years. By that time, parties will have coalesced, the issues will be sharper, the elected delegates will be better known in the Palestinian street and more adept at electioneering. Those elected solely on family and political connections without talent will be discarded.

But much depends on the makeup of this council. If the official Fatah list close to Arafat and parochial independents dominate it could stagnate. If Fatah rebels running as independents, women and others not involved with the Oslo accords do well, there will be more ferment, complicating the peace process.

"This council is going to make the laws that will change Palestinian society," said Walid Salem, an activist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine explaining, too late, why he was sorry the PFLP leadership under George Habash in Damascus ordered members to boycott the elections.

THERE WILL be a legally designated successor to Arafat when the 88-member council chooses its chairman and there will be a mechanism for succeeding Arafat which was never clear before. Suddenly, he looks a little less indispensable.

"He is the most suitable leader - at this time," says independent Hanan Ashrawi. This is why many Palestinians



Poster for candidate Kamal Jafarieh, a dead ringer for Saddam Hussein. (Jon Immanuel)

who criticize Arafat, and even loathe his De Gaulle persona, will vote for him. De Gaulle was the man of the hour. Like De Gaulle, Arafat became a symbol of his people's independent spirit, and De Gaulle fell victim to street riots.

The independence of Arafat's spirit has been tarnished for many by the Oslo accords, which appear to make Arafat Israel's satrap, but he has so far convinced most Palestinians that Oslo is the only game in town.

Arafat will win a large majority in the presidential election. Recent polls indicated 60% of the one million eligible voters support him. His faction in Fatah is expected to win more than 40% support. But the polls don't account for a boycott by the opposition which could bring Arafat's share of the vote well beyond 85% and Fatah's vote close to 60%.

Thus the opposition parties' boycott of the election creates the very conditions for continued authoritarian rule by Arafat who will say he has been acclaimed by the people.

If that happens, and it probably will, the opposition parties "will have no one to blame but themselves," according to Nablus-based political analyst Khalil Shikaki, brother of slain Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shikaki.

Hamas, the Popular Front and other opposition groups hope for a negative victory in low voter turnout. Their "optimists" talk about a turnout of less than 55%, which would shock Arafat, Oslo and the election process.

But it is likely that more than 65% will vote. If 85% vote, Hamas can pack its bags. Elements



Election poster in Ramallah. According to one activist, 'this council is going to make the laws that will change Palestinian society.' (David Rubinger)

of Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have already flaked off the mother parties.

A LARGE amorphous organization like Hamas had many supporters whose allegiance was to Islam rather than to any organization. Respected Islamic candidates are running, some as independents and some, like Hebron's Rafiq Natshe, with Fatah. Another Fatah candidate is Imad Falouji, ex-editor of the Hamas weekly *Al-Watan* in Gaza which Arafat closed on several occasions.

The election process dealt a further blow to Hamas and the PFLP by showing the extent so-

nior members were subject to foreign control; those seeking election were threatened by organization leaders abroad. They toyed with the idea of running, some top-level Hamas personalities even stood as candidates but withdrew. Meanwhile, Hamas leaflets offer contradictory orders. Leaflet 131 called for a boycott last week followed by another leaflet 131 denying there was a boycott.

In many ways, the election process is testimony to the skill with which Arafat has marginalized Hamas. He arrested, tempted, released, rearrested, honored and threatened Hamas leaders. He described as "criminal" and "terrorist" the last four suicide-

bomb attacks to placate Israel and then eulogized their assassinated chief perpetrator as "a holy martyr" to placate Hamas. He became all things to all men. Those who call him a two-faced jester can at least appreciate his skills as a juggler.

Elections do not a democracy make, but the Palestinian elections, for all their defects, are more democratic than, say, Syria's multiparty elections. Though the broad outlines of the election results are clear. One half-serious potential rival said, "I don't want to get killed" running against Arafat, though he may have meant wiped out politically.

Still, there could be surprises in the council elections. This is part-

ly because each voter will be able to vote for more than one candidate, and thus split his vote. The election is for individuals and not for party lists.

THUS IN Gaza City, where the voter can choose up to 12 candidates, he can do his duty and vote for a member of his extended family running as an independent. Then he can add another respected independent with Islamic leanings, pick two official Fatah candidates, a woman, two from Dr. Haider Abdel-Shafi's Movement for Building Democracy, and throw in a couple of Fatah intifada activists he personally knows but whom Arafat tossed off the original Fatah list.

"I will vote for one Fatah, one independent, but not for a woman," said Gaza English teacher Khaled Shurafat, who considers himself Islamic in orientation.

The vast majority of women, who are more than 50% of the voters in some districts, will be voting for the first time in their lives, while many men have voted in commercial, local, student and professional elections. Will they accept all their husband's choices or will they vote for women candidates? Because only 27 women are running - most with progressive views on social issues, the real key to democracy - each has a better chance of election than they otherwise would if the selection process had been more open. They have campaigned more vigorously than men.

The fact that a woman - 72-year-old Samia Khalil, an outspoken, anti-Oslo welfare activist - is challenging Arafat for the presidency could influence women to be more independent in the council elections, even if they support Arafat.

There has been widespread criticism of the campaign, which was brief and benefited those with well-known faces. TV exposure was virtually nil for council candidates, except those like Planning Minister Nabil Shaath (Fatah-Khan Yunis) who prides himself on "being known in every lady's bedroom - on their TV sets, of course."

But others limited to two-minute slots on the Voice of Palestine hardly raised their recognition factor.

"I look through the list of 92 candidates in Gaza City and I don't recognize the names of 70 of them," said one Gaza journalist who thought he knew everybody worth knowing in Gaza politics.

HOWEVER, since the elections are by district it is not certain that a candidate from Ramallah or

from Gaza City would have benefited more from wider radio or TV exposure than he would from old-fashioned stumping in his district's villages.

A look at the election literature of 506 of the 672 independent candidates - many of whom are Fatah in disguise - shows that most of them have no program beyond liberating Jerusalem, returning refugees and releasing prisoners. While these things are important, many were jeered for making promises far beyond their competence.

"I say don't look at what candidates say about prisoners but what they have done," says human rights lawyer Jonathan Kuttab, who is running in Jerusalem.

One independent candidate, given a fair chance of winning a seat in Gaza City, is two-meter-tall construction engineer Kamal Jafarieh from the sprawling Zeitoun neighborhood who happens to be a dead ringer for Saddam Hussein, mustache and all. Unlike Saddam he promises what is within his professional competence: a rapid increase in the amount of high-rise housing.

This is also in his professional interest and questions have been raised concerning the main purpose of candidates in running for election.

Non-conflict of interest and financial disclosure, two basic requirements of elected representatives in democratic countries, have been watered down in successive drafts of the election law.

A clause in an early draft requiring elected candidates to resign from the Palestinian council if they submit commercial bids to the Palestinian Authority was deleted in the final draft.

The statement of assets to have been made public in earlier drafts will now be "kept by the president of the council who shall adopt necessary measures to ensure secrecy." Instead of being required to declare one's own assets and those of one's wife and children over 18, the elected delegate now need only declare his personal assets and those of his " underage children." This means any member can nominally transfer his wealth to his wife and adult children without accountability.

There is also nothing in the election law about parliamentary immunity and the right of legislators to publicly question members of the 25-member cabinet which will sit as members of the 88-member council.

The legislators themselves may introduce such laws themselves, but finally their power depends (Continued on page 8)

We Have Stood By You! Stand By Us!

The Lebanese people applaud the determination of the Israeli people to achieve peace. Israel's modern history has proved that a non-Arab entity can establish the necessary balance of power to bring about a realistic peace with the Arab regimes.

We, as Lebanese, call on Israel to adopt a historical bipartisan policy towards its only true ally in the region. The missed opportunities of 1982-1985 cannot, and should not, undermine strategic realities, cultural affinities, and inescapable geopolitical facts.

Since 1977, the Lebanese resistance movement in south Lebanon has openly maintained an alliance with the Jewish state. For 18 years, the south Lebanon army and the IDF have formed a shield to protect the Galilee and the border areas within Lebanon from the ferocious assaults of Islamic extremism, which are supported by Syria and Iran. The blood of Israeli soldiers and Lebanese fighters is being shed equally, in the defense of both nations.

In October 1990, the free central areas of Lebanon were invaded by

the Syrian army and today, Lebanon's government is controlled by Damascus. The fate of a free Lebanon cannot be decided by the current pro-Syrian regime in Beirut, but by the resistance: the free people of south Lebanon and the patriotic Lebanese in the diaspora.

The existence of a free Lebanon is the only guarantee of Israel's security and peace on its northern border. This is a strategic reality. The cultural affinities between Lebanon and Israel are stronger than any other ties that could be formed in the region. The Lebanese Christians, in particular, are the Middle East nation closest and friendliest to the Jewish people of Israel. This is a geopolitical reality.

An economic partnership between Lebanon and Israel can be the most reliable and the longest-lasting enterprise, of benefit to both nations. For all these reasons, and in the name of a free Lebanon, we call on the Israeli people:

1. Not under any circumstance to abandon south Lebanon's population and free areas, so long as a just and comprehensive solution for Lebanon is not found.
2. To help the free areas of south Lebanon exercise their right of self-determination within the framework of an alliance with Israel.
3. To assist the Lebanese resistance worldwide to raise the issue of Syrian occupation and to call for the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon.
4. To consult with the representatives of the free Lebanese communities in the "security zone" and in the diaspora on the peace process with Lebanon and the future relations between the two countries.

People of Israel - we have stood by you. Stand by us!

The World Lebanese Organization
Najib Khouri
New York Director
Tel. 516 288-3465
Fax. 516 288-3194
POB 795, Quage, Long Island, N.Y.

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'We want honest elections'

GROWING up in Provo, Utah, Omar Kader often heard his parents speak of the "cruelty" of the Ottomans and "arrogance" of the British who once ruled Palestine.

The elder Kaders, who had left the Jerusalem area for the US by the early 1930s, didn't imagine that Palestinians would one day vote for a self-governing body.

But at tomorrow's Palestinian Council elections, Omar Kader will be there as one of more than a score of Americans monitoring the proceedings.

"I think it's a really historical moment. I'm really glad to be going," Kader, president of Pal-Tech, a computer training company in Arlington, Virginia, said before departing for the region early this week.

"I want to do everything I can to let Arab-Americans know we're watching" the voting, as well as to let the Palestinian leadership know "we want them to be honest elections," he said.

Kader said he is participating to ensure that the Palestinians do not become "just ... another Third World dictatorship."

The main delegation of US observers was organized jointly by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and Atlanta's Carter Center. Former US president Jimmy Carter is leading the group, which includes 20 additional monitors from throughout the world, including former Polish prime minister Hanna Suchocka.

The Arab American Institute is also sponsoring an observer delegation consisting of former and current members of Congress and local elected officials of Arab-American descent.

West Virginia Congressman

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

Nick Joe Rahall II, a Democrat, said he was "quite emotional" at serving as an election monitor.

"I think it's essential the Arab-American community be on the ground not only as observers but to support the Palestinians in this first-ever council election," he said.

THE AMERICAN participants prepared for the voting by meeting this week in the territories and in Israel with election officials and experts, journalists, and Palestinian and Israeli government officials.

The group will fan out tomorrow to voting stations throughout the territories to observe the balloting. They will critique the process in reports to be issued upon returning to the US.

But they cautioned against expectations they apply the American model to this "transition" election. The US has its own history of election irregularities which should lead "a little bit of humility" to the Americans' mission, said AAI president Jim Zogby.

For two years, NDI staffers have worked in the territories leading civic and voter-education programs, with an emphasis on encouraging women to participate in the political process. Much of that work was coordinated with the Palestinians' Central Election Commission.

The inaugural election is seen as a key element in promoting democracy in Palestinian society, said NDI senior associate Eric Bjornlund.

"Our belief is that elections

can contribute to democratization," he said, "that transition elections can create a climate where there is greater democratization."

"We are going to demonstrate international support for Palestinian democracy and to assess the election process in relation to Palestinian law and international norms. [It] is a piece of a larger effort to promote democracy."

Several observers said they are participating both to lend American election experience to a first-time national ballot and to ensure the integrity of the process.

But they also raised concerns about Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat's shortening of the campaign schedule and tampering with party lists of victors in the primaries.

SOME SAID they were particularly upset by the PA's detention last month of Maher Alami, editor of the east Jerusalem daily *Al Quds*, and questioned the compatibility of democratic elections with infringements on freedom of the press.

Karen Shepherd, a former Democratic congresswoman from Utah who once did democracy-building work in Czechoslovakia, said "the absence of a fully free press is a great cripper to a growth of a democracy."

"If editors and writers and reporters don't have the freedom to do their job, then democracy can't be a growing thing... It ought to be something the most civic-minded of the Palestinians should be working on, insisting on."

In a report issued this month, NDI and the Carter Center said the arrest of Alami raises "further concerns about respect for freedom of speech" and that "the circumstances of this detention suggest a worsening of the situation."

Following the second pre-election visit to the region in December, the organizations said they were "encouraged" by Palestinian leaders' commitment to elections as the basis for political rule, as well as by the voter registration process.

But the report also criticized the PA for "the chilling effect that the actions of security services are having on Palestinian democratic development."

"For the electoral process to succeed, it is necessary that the PA demonstrate greater respect for human rights, freedom of speech and the rule of law," the delegates wrote. "We are concerned about the serious reports of press censorship, arbitrary detention without due process, torture and even deaths in detention."

"Many Palestinians also expressed their concern about the intrusion of a growing security apparatus into many aspects of civil society in a manner that inhibits debate and dissent."

"The PA needs to take immediate steps to dispel these fears and create an open environment more conducive to meaningful elections."

Election monitors said they intend to form their own judgments this week based on firsthand impressions of the PA's performance in enabling the elections to be truly open.

"My hope is the Palestinian leadership is very aware that the international community is watching its conduct in providing a free press and a fair coverage of the election process," said Congressman Jerry Weller (Republican-Illinois).

Poll monitors face a host of problems

When the Palestinians vote, there will be plenty of obstacles to avoid, Jon Immanuel reports

THE potential for fraud in the Palestinian council elections is significant - from manipulating illiterates, to giving the largest parties undue influence in party monitoring, to miscounting votes. The election monitors are there to keep cheating to a minimum.

These are the first steps towards democracy and it is a total illusion to think that everything will be perfect," says Carl Lidbom, former justice minister of Sweden.

He is leading the 300 European Union election monitors who will be observing the 1,696 polling stations together with 350 observers from other countries and foreign nongovernment organizations.

They include 16 delegations from places such as Norway, Japan, Egypt, Jordan, Russia, Cyprus and Malta. In addition, former US president Jimmy Carter is heading an international group of 20.

The EU observers were nominated by their respective countries, accredited by the Palestinian Authority and then the list of names was presented to Israel.

The EU Election Unit (EUEU) plans to send monitors to each of the polling stations for one or two hours during the day. The other monitors will also circulate.

After the voting, EU observers will monitor the counts at 150 stations, two observers per station, and other foreign observers will monitor them at 170 stations. The Palestinians will not know which stations the foreign observers plan to monitor.

They do not have the manpower for round-the-clock monitoring.

ing station and should therefore be guided by someone he trusts.

Much responsibility for preventing cheating will fall largely on the 2,500 members of the PDMC, who will have a greater presence than the international monitors.

In addition to the 650 foreign monitors and up to 2,500 PDMC observers, the parties and independents can send representatives to the polling stations to check that no one from another party is interfering. As a result, there will be no shortage of monitors. The catch is that they must have representatives running in the districts where they send observers. Only Fatah has candidates running in every district and therefore will have much greater access to the polling stations than other parties.

PDMC chairman Nassef Muallem says that the most crucial area of potential fraud is in counting the votes after the polls close. To help prevent this, the PDMC will monitor the results at a small sample of polling stations immediately after the stations close at 7 p.m.

"The purpose is to have some idea of the accurate results before anybody can change them," Muallem explains.

If all else fails, and claims of election fraud are manifest, there is the appeals court. Here again, some might raise an eyebrow. It is headed by PA chairman and executive council presidential candidate Yasser Arafat, who will appoint the four other members.

In the final analysis, Lidbom says, "the question is whether the elections will be reasonably free and fair rather than totally free and fair."

An election observer named... Israel

ESTHER HECHT

FOR a self-confessed "campaign junkie" like Lesley Israel, being an elections observer is a thrill.

"It's a whole other way of looking at a country," says Israel, who is here for three weeks as the representative of the Anti-Defamation League to observe the Palestinian Authority elections.

But mostly it is hard work, and observers must be prepared for the generally poor communications and transport, and unfamiliar food - or occasional lack of it - in the "emerging" democracies to which they are sent.

"You carry your own roll of toilet paper, your own bottle of water and lots of candy bars," she says.

Israel, 57, is a political consultant in Washington, where she advises candidates and the Democratic Party on how to run their campaigns. This is her third stint as an elections observer. In the fall of 1995, she was sent to Tanzania and Zanzibar by groups funded by the US government.

What impressed her most in both countries was how much the elections mattered to the people. "In Zanzibar, I was deployed in a rural area with bad roads, no electricity and no toilets. It was raining torrentially, and people had to walk miles to the nearest polling station. There were women with babies, and old people.

"At the station they had to wait in line up to six hours, because the voting system was so inefficient. Many ended up trudging home in the rain and mud after dark."

New democracies don't get all the details of the election process right at first, Israel says. In Zanzibar, for example, there was a training session for 300 polling-station officials, but no printed materials were ready. So one person stood up and read the manual to all the rest. Only on election



Lesley Israel: New democracies don't get all the details of the election process right at first. (Karen Ben-Zion)

day did the other officials set eyes on the regulations and forms.

To ensure ballot security, ballots must not be distributed too early. But in Tanzania, ballots were distributed late, so some polling stations could not open on time.

As a consequence, there was a radio announcement that they were to stay open later, but not all the stations had radios.

There was also no backup for election officials. "If one of them had to go to the bathroom, they

had to stop polling," Israel recalls.

In stations that had no electricity, ballot counting was done by lantern light and went on until 3 a.m., by which time people were tired, grumpy and likely to make mistakes.

And though there were not enough trucks to pick up the ballot boxes, observers could not offer to deliver the boxes themselves, but had to stay at the stations until the ballots were collected. Polling officials and observers had been at some stations

since the previous night, and some boxes were not collected until 24 hours after the polls closed. Israel was moved by the fact that "people cared so much and were willing to do it."

Observers are instructed to accept the local culture on its own terms, Israel says. In Zanzibar, some polling places had separate lines for men and women. But she could intervene only if a basic right were infringed, for example, if a husband insisted on casting his wife's ballot. This never happened, nor did Israel witness any intimidation by people bearing arms.

"The presence of observers helps," she says. "They know they're being watched, and the governments want the legitimacy" that comes from a positive report.

In Zanzibar, however, the desire for legitimacy did not prevent the central election authority from barring observers at the final count.

Two days later it announced the ruling party had won by a small majority," Israel says, though observers' figures from local polling stations suggested there might have been a different outcome.

Israel is not the only Jew monitoring the upcoming PA elections, nor is this the first time the ADL has sent observers. According to Harry Wall, director of ADL's Israel office, the organization believes that where democracies exist, the problems of antisemitism, racism and instability tend to decrease.

Israel's gender has never been an issue, she says, though she has been careful to wear a skirt in heavily Moslem areas and will do so in Gaza. She expected some reaction here to her surname, and so has been introducing herself just as "Lesley." So far, however, no one has even noticed the oddity of a woman named Israel observing the elections for the PA.

benefit his rule. Shaath says the local council will dominate and the PLO "will eventually fade away." Salim Zaanoun, speaker of the PNC, says the opposite, that the local council will become a small part of the PNC. The development of this relationship will be one of the most important issues to watch in coming months not least because the peace process is due to halt abruptly if the PNC does not change the anti-Israeli Palestinian national charter.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Tender No. 196/MK Career Diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cadets)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers you an opportunity to join the Foreign Service and to perform a variety of tasks representing personal, professional and national challenges of the highest order, in Israel and abroad. If you feel that you have the necessary motivation in this field, and are prepared to devote your talents and energies to your country's foreign service, you are invited to submit your candidacy for the Ministry's training courses. The Foreign Office is offering exciting professional posts, representing Israel at more than 100 embassies and consulates throughout the world, and at the Ministry in Israel, which leads and coordinates the peace negotiations with Arab countries, and conducts Israel's foreign affairs.

Applications are now being accepted from candidates whose academic training in one or more fields of the humanities and social sciences, law, natural sciences and technology, qualify them for work in the Foreign Service, where professional expertise in specific fields must be combined with general knowledge of a wide range of subjects.

Candidates must demonstrate intellectual curiosity and independence, ability to understand and analyze political and economic issues, a background in culture, command of languages, inter-personal skills, team-work abilities, initiative and executive abilities.

In order to find personnel who meet these qualifications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission, has established careful screening procedures.

During the month of January, meetings will be held at the universities, in order to provide as much information as possible on the Foreign Service and the various training tracks. (For details, check university notice boards.)

The selection process is divided into stages, and will take about nine months from the date of publication of the tender. Candidates who meet the requirements will be invited to join the course.

Trainees who successfully complete the training will be posted to embassies and consulates abroad, or departments of the Ministry in Israel. Candidates must be prepared to accept any post in Israel or abroad, including those in countries in which living conditions are difficult.

You are invited to come into the center of the Israel experience, at this time when Israel is turning a corner in international relations, new horizons in diplomacy can be glimpsed, and the face of the Middle East is being refashioned, for an age of peace.

Post Description

General training in the special activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as political, politico-economic, international cooperation, politico-legal affairs, the Middle East, media and communications, research, geography and cultural affairs, as well as general training in administration in the Ministry, administration of overseas missions, consular affairs, personnel, computers and information, financial and property management and budgeting.

The Foreign Service is becoming continuously more specialized. Training will be offered in four fields: political/general, politico-economic, the Middle East and administration. Assignment in the specialized fields will be according to ability and the Ministry's needs. Candidates will also be given the opportunity to express their preferences before the beginning of the course.

During training, those accepted will participate in a basic course and an apprenticeship period in various departments of the Ministry in Israel and abroad. After two years, if the trainee meets the requirements, he will join Israel's Foreign Service. Grade: 35-38 on the academic (humanities) scale.

Conditions of Employment

a. During the training period, the trainee will be employed on a special contract, with a fixed salary.

b. All trainees will receive a standing loan, which will become a grant, after five years' continuous service.

Qualifications Required:

a. Full academic education - at least a Bachelor of Arts/Science degree (see Para. E below).
b. Familiarity with political problems, and other general subjects, including economics and Israel's economy, Judaism, the Middle East, history, geography, society and the state, international law, culture and art, administration, computers, analytical ability, negotiating ability, ability for communications work in writing and orally, perfect written and spoken Hebrew, a command of English, including fluent spoken English. Knowledge of another language is most desirable: Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Hungarian, Czech, Polish, Turkish, or Georgian.

c. Age: Up to 33.

d. Medical and security checks.

e. Israeli citizenship, including spouse.

f. The selection process of the Civil Service Commission includes the candidates taking written examinations, and being examined at assessment centers and by examination boards. (Notice of the dates of these examinations will be sent to applicants.)

NOTES

A. Trainees who pass the acceptance examinations will, on conclusion of the two-year training period, join the Foreign Service. They must be prepared to accept any post in Israel or abroad, including posts in countries in which service conditions are difficult.

B. Accepted applicants who are tenured civil servants will, during the period of basic and specialized training, receive an acting appointment (with the agreement of their supervisor in the Ministry in which they are employed).

C. The Ministry reserves the right to decide in which course to place a trainee, in accordance with the needs of the Ministry.

D. The right is reserved to remove a trainee from the course or from specialized training if he is found unsuitable.

E. Persons who do not hold a degree, but who are studying for a Bachelor's degree to be awarded at the end of the 1996 academic year, are eligible to apply. Such a candidate must, when applying, submit confirmation that he is in the last year of a degree course. If accepted, acceptance will be provisional, until he submits confirmation of the award of his degree, and this no later than January 1997.

F. Applications are to be made on Form Madaf 2115, to which must be attached authenticated copies of the documents required, a curriculum vitae, and two photographs. The form may be submitted to any district office of the Civil Service Commission:

Jerusalem - Hakiry, 3 Rehov Kaplan, P.O.B. 34076, Jerusalem 91340
Tel Aviv - Hakiry, 10 Rehov Kalman Magen, Tel Aviv 61070
Haifa - 11 Rehov Hassan Shaker, Haifa 33105
BeerSheva - 136 Rehov Hehalev, P.O.B. 10050, BeerSheva

Form 2115 can be obtained from any of the above offices, and from local government council offices and post offices. A soldier may, if he wishes, submit an application in the form of an ordinary letter, in which case he should provide a brief statement, giving personal details and particulars of his education and experience.

G. In this notice, all references to the masculine include the feminine. Equal opportunity will be given to men and women with suitable qualifications in competition for any given position.

H. Candidates should ensure that their application is complete in all respects, with the required authenticated copies of documents and with any other documents they wish to attach (with a faithful translation into Hebrew of documents in a foreign language). It should reach the Civil Service Commission as soon as possible, but in any case not later than the date given at the end of this notice, failing which they will not be considered.

I. A trainee who withdraws from the basic course or from specialized training before the end, on his own initiative, will return the standing loan and pay the course expenses for the period in which he participated.

J. During the course, trainees who live outside Jerusalem will be entitled to travel expenses or accommodations and, during the specialized training period in Israel, such trainees will receive travel expenses or assistance in paying rent, at a rate determined by the Civil Service Commission.

The course is expected to open at the end of 1996

ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 7)
on an additional factor. The 88 members will become members of the 540-member Palestine National Council, the PLO parlia-

ment-in-exile, of which a majority of members are still abroad, and a large number are opposed to the Oslo agreements.

As head of both the elected PC and the PNC, Arafat may be able to play one off against the other to

Kfar Saba Municipality
Dept. of Culture

C. Holdings Ltd

ANNOUNCEMENT

Establishment of "The Israeli Male Choir"
Conductor: Mr. Abaron Harlap

Auditions will be held at Beit Hararot "Reizel" in Kfar Saba, 19 Gonda St., on January 25 and 30, 1996, between 20.00 - 22.00 hrs.

Phone: 02-915645, 02-7648309/4, ask for Yael or Avia.

Requirements: Men with choral experience, good voices, and preferably a working knowledge of Solfege and a great deal of enthusiasm.

Under the patronage of the Municipality of Kfar Saba,
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and under the sponsorship of the "C. Holdings" Co.

Anglican International School, Jerusalem is looking for several good students for vacancies in grades 5, 6, and 11

The Anglican International School, Jerusalem, is the only accredited English-speaking international school in the Jerusalem District, offering high quality English-medium education to children from ages 3 to 18. It has a student population of 315 drawn from over 35 nations.

The curriculum draws from the best of British and US systems, leading to IGCSE and Advanced Placement examinations. This Christian co-educational day school is pleasantly situated in historical buildings on Rehov Haney'um on attractive grounds close to the city's center.

For further details call 395-220. Application packets can be picked up at the reception desk at the school.

مركز القدس



If Tel Aviv City Council member Mordechai Virshubski has his way, the graffiti on the walls of Kikar Rabin will be cleaned. (The Jerusalem Post)

Rabin Square deco: Eyesore or loving tribute?

A bus stops in front of the Tel Aviv municipal building. Teenagers from the desert town of Sderot pile out. They stand reverently for a moment at the site where prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was gunned down, contemplating the pile of stones, memorial candles and fresh flowers placed at Rabin Square to commemorate him.

Then the youths are drawn to the walls of the municipal building. They look at the graffiti written by those who have been there before them, then pull out their pens and add their own thoughts.

Nearby, Tel Aviv City Council member Mordechai Virshubski looks on disapprovingly. All over the walls of the municipality, and on the wall of Gan Ha'ir opposite it, is writing expressing the pain and anger of the country's youth following Rabin's murder. Some are ngly scrawls of graffiti, some are small intimate writing, and some pictures and drawings stuck to the walls with tape.

Meretz member Virshubski caused a stir this week when he called for a major cleanup of the walls of the municipality. Where some people see a spontaneous outpouring of affection and a meaningful symbol, he sees dirt, lack of discipline and a public embarrassment. And as he is in charge of arts and culture in Tel Aviv, he states; it was his responsibility to point out how unesthetic it is.

"It's a mess," he says. "If you ask me, it's the biggest eyesore of the state of Israel. It reminds me

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

of nothing more than a subway stop in the worst neighborhood in New York.

"To leave the walls as they are is an insult to Rabin. I am sure that if he could come back to life for a day, he would see this and hate it - it's ugly, it's degrading. People say that it is testament to crying out against a horrible deed, that it was a spontaneous reaction to the grief. Well, OK, two or three months ago it was spontaneous, it's not anymore."

Publicly, there was a backlash of opposition to Virshubski's proposal. Most politicians, largely Virshubski's colleagues on the left, were quick to jump on him and his proposal to clean the walls. It was too soon, they said, to wipe away the traces of a national trauma. Even Leah Rabin reacted, saying that she would be sad to see the graffiti erased.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, aware of the way that the winds of public opinion were blowing, was quick to release a statement, "to clarify unequivocally that there is no intention by the municipality to erase the writings on Rabin Square written after the murder of Yitzhak Rabin."

Milo would have the support of the kids on the bus from Sderot. They were shocked to hear of the proposal to erase the memorial that they had made a special pilgrimage to see.

"It's all we have left of Rabin," said Shimrit as she carefully traced her tribute onto the wall.

Her friend Rabel added, "It would be one thing if it was just writing, if it didn't mean anything, but this is important. This says something."

But Virshubski insists that he is receiving support, though mostly behind closed doors. People are saying his stand is self-destructive in an election year.

He doesn't think that all of the traces of the events should be wiped away. The memorial where Rabin fell could be preserved, he proposed, and a condolence book could be added for the public to write their sentiments in instead of writing on the wall. And if the public is so attached to the graffiti, it can be photographed and put on exhibit inside the municipality, he proposes with a hint of distaste.

Some other compromise proposals have been floated: cleaning all but one wall and designating that for graffiti or covering some of the graffiti with glass or lacquer to preserve it.

There has been a lot of discussion as to what will remain at Rabin Square permanently. Some people say a monument or statue is in order, others say statues are un-Jewish and a plaque will be more appropriate.

But, in any case, Virshubski says that the graffiti tradition should be stopped, and it should be stopped now.

"Writing on walls is illegal," he declares. "Is it appropriate to commemorate Rabin by committing an illegal act? I don't think so."

Weizman's German dilemma

The president's 'undiplomacy' created tension - yet his visit was a success, Abraham Rabinovich reports from Berlin

STANDING in a cold mist before Berlin's Brandenburg Gate to provide a symbol-heavy photo opportunity during his state visit to Germany this week, President Ezer Weizman said to a knot of Israeli reporters in the surging crowd of journalists, "Fellows, the atmosphere is not simple."

Given Weizman's blunt style, which cuts through diplomatic ambivalence to the heart of the matter, the atmosphere was indeed not simple. During his four-day visit Weizman made two clear but dissonant points:

• It was difficult for him as a Jew to set foot in Germany and incomprehensible to him that Jews would actually want to live there again.

• German-Israeli cooperation in economic, security, political, scientific and even cultural areas is extremely important to Israel given Germany's dominant position in Europe and Israel's aspirations.

In stressing these two points without quite indicating how they connect, the president made stark the dilemma which has marked Israel's relations with Germany since they formally began 31 years ago: on what basis do you seek close cooperation with a country that in living memory has murdered one-third of your people and would have murdered the remainder if it had had the chance?

Even at glittering state functions like the formal dinner in Bonn given for Weizman by his counterpart, German President Roman Herzog, it was hard for Israelis in the entourage not to imagine what the Germans sitting alongside them, pleasant and cultured though they were, would have looked like in Wehrmacht uniforms or worse.

The sight of more than 100 German servicemen holding aloft torches on the driveway to the mountaintop retreat where the dinner was held kindled associations in the minds of the Israelis that the German hosts could not have intended.

For Germans, at least younger ones, the nature of the German-Israeli dilemma appears to be



AS SHAPIRO

shifting. "There has been a tremendous change in recent years," says Avi Primor, Israel's ambassador to Germany. "The Germans are not talking less about the Holocaust as time passes but more. The younger generation is demanding to know what their parents and teachers didn't tell them. I am being asked to talk about it to German audiences far more than my predecessors were."

For many years after the war, Germans sought to avoid reminders of the Holocaust. In 1952, when chancellor Konrad Adenauer moved to make reparation payments, only 14 percent of the German public supported him. It was only in 1970 that the Holocaust began to be dealt with in German schools.

When then-German president Richard von Weizsaecker said 10 years ago that the allies had liberated Germany from Nazism, his remark was angrily rejected by most Germans. A recent poll shows that 70 percent now support that view, Primor says.

It is not guilt that the young generation is accepting but "re-

sponsibility," the new, more easily digestible, indeed fairer, buzzword.

"Why must I feel guilty about what was done two, three generations ago?" a German teenager asked Weizman at a Berlin meeting.

GERMANY'S JEWISH population is also feeling guilt-free as it grows and thrives. In the past five years it has doubled in size to about 50,000. Because of Germany's generous attitude regarding the immigration of Jews, the number is expected to reach 100,000 in a few years.

"The Germans are interested in having a Jewish community here," says Daniel Dagan, an Israeli journalist who has been residing in Germany for more than 10 years. "It lends legitimacy. Whenever German leaders make major trips abroad, even to places like Russia, they include Jews in the party as if to say, 'We have our Jews.'"

While the presence of Jews in their midst suggests reconciliation and makes it easier for Germans to live with their history,

Weizman expressed thinly disguised disgust at the notion that Jews would be willing to settle there.

"I just don't understand how Jews live in Germany," he said to reporters on the plane flying there and he said it again at the first opportunity - a public occasion in Berlin. It was a vintage Ezer treetop strafing run and it drew quick reaction from German Jewish leaders.

"Today's Germany is not the Germany of the Nazi era," Ignatz Bubis, head of the Jewish community, responded.

The German press, stunned or bemused by Weizman's comment, ran the story prominently but without comment.

Whatever his reservations about Germany, the president executed his official duties like a veteran trooper and his irrefragable flair did not detract from dignity. His relations with his hosts appeared warm and the media featured his appearances prominently.

Perhaps the main contribution to the success of the visit was his decision to let someone else write the speech he delivered to the German parliament. The Israeli Embassy in Bonn had prepared a speech for him to give last September, the originally scheduled date of his trip. However, suicide bombings in Israel had caused the trip to be postponed.

According to a reliable source, Weizman had insisted on adding passages of his own, including patriotic flourishes, to the prepared speech. Then, after prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, Weizman was heavily criticized for his enology, which was widely regarded as inappropriate. As a direct result, Weizman dropped his plan to amend the prepared speech himself and requested that novelist Meir Shalev be asked to prepare a new speech based on the Bonn embassy's draft.

The speech, as delivered by Weizman in the Bundestag this week, left a powerful impression on his listeners. It was a masterful evocation of Jewish history and spirit that explained what the Jewish state was about in terms that were at once poetic, erudite and politically resonant, even though it avoided political issues.

The surprising reaction of a German journalist in the Bundestag press gallery was to express a heartfelt pang of envy at the deep-rooted sense of nationhood implicit in the speech. This was something he said, for which the Germans hungered. The gaps in their history created by World War II and other events, the journalist said, had deprived Germans of a strong sense of national identity and they were too fearful of their history to try to reconstruct such an identity.

The atmosphere, it seems, is no simpler for them than it is for us.

The Knesset 'suffocates' not only the public but also its MKs

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

IT has long been accepted that listening to Knesset debates is a sure invitation to a raging headache.

It is less well known that for years, Knesset members themselves have been complaining of regular headaches and oppressive feelings of "suffocation." Knesset workers swap anti-headache pills daily, and journalists have reported feeling heavy and drowsy after only two hours in the cafeteria.

The Knesset is the inevitable butt of jokes and its alleged ailments were not likely to escape the wags. Did a mysterious virus stalk the corridors? Enemy (or opposition) sabotage? Was a new Legionnaires' Disease lurking in the air-conditioners?

Speaker Shevah Weiss, a 15-year Knesset veteran, is himself a victim of the elusive House symptoms, "but it wasn't clear to me whether it was the air or the atmosphere," he said.

Like many others, he tended to attribute any symptoms to the intense political atmosphere. Aside from the various political stresses, emotional ideological or procedural arguments often ramble on through all hours of the day and night in a stuffy atmosphere, raising the susceptibility of participants to catch any passing bug.

"We would sometimes open the windows, or turn down the air-conditioning. In past years there was little awareness of radon gas or other environmental hazards," Weiss said.

After the "radon panic" in Jerusalem, Weiss welcomed Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's initiative to check out the Knesset air.

And so, the mystery was solved. Sarid's experts found no radon gas, but they did find high concentrations of bicarbonate monoxide - a gas emitted from the human body.



Just the sight of Prime Minister Shevah Weiss could have cured the pope. (The Jerusalem Post)

Knesset rooms will be better aired and the air-conditioning system boosted. If, after all that, the headaches continue, the conclusion will be inevitable.

Sarid will have to summon the state anti-boredom brigades.

GUARD THAT MAN

Who is the most heavily guarded man in the country? The prime minister?

Now it may well be Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal. This follows the emergence of a new threat - from the followers of jailbird and self-ordained "rabbi" Uzi Meshulam.

Shahal was among the names of other public figures on the hit list of Meshulam's mob. The police inspector-general this week said the gang, usually considered something of a joke, had become "a nationalist terrorist group whose likes we have not known until now."

On *Popolitica* members of Meshulam's group charged Ashkenazi collectively with genocide and demanded that Meshulam be placed at the head of the commission of inquiry into the disappearance of Yemenite children

in the 1950s. Former police chief Ya'acov Turner found himself on the air vehemently defending his former hated rival Shahal as he tried to vindicate police from accusations of persecuting the Meshulam gang in particular and Yemenites in general.

A beehive of bodyguards buzz around Shahal's every move and he does not deny wearing a bulletproof vest under his immaculate suit. He failed to convince his accusers that he did not say "the dissidence of the Yemenites must be investigated" - as was attributed to him.

The real irony is that the Iraqi-born Shahal has become for the Meshulamites the quintessential discriminating, hostile, establishment Ashkenazi.

Cabinet ministers were briefed on the scope of Meshulam's organization. Once more they found themselves wondering how a gaggle of eccentrics from Yehud has turned into "one of the most dangerous fanatic groups ever to arise in Israel" under the noses of the authorities.

Certain MKs compared the security authorities' lax approach to the Meshulam gang to their kid-glove handling of other right-wing extreme elements. They noted similar characteristics shared by the two groups - separatism, fanaticism and willingness to take violent action sanctioned by a rabbinical authority.

Meanwhile Meshulam continues to orchestrate his organization of thousands from the special division he and his convict colleagues inhabit in the Ayalon Prison, where he continues to enjoy special luxury conditions courtesy of the Prisons Service.

Meshulam has free use of the telephone (by which he gave an interview to a newspaper last week) and the group's meals are custom catered by a banquet hall owned by a Meshulam believer.

Earlier this week Meshulam issued a directive to Ayalon Prison commander Avi Harari stipulating his required procedures for a scheduled press visit to his quar-



Shevah Weiss: Mystery in the House could be bad atmosphere. (The Jerusalem Post)

ters. He required the male journalists to cover their heads and tour the section separately from the women, who were to be obliged to dress modestly.

BLONDES HAVE FUN

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet, who this week led a business delegation to Rome for an audience with Pope John Paul II, invited businesswoman and glamor girl Pinna Rosenblum to come along.

Shetreet, who had taken Rosenblum on a previous business trip to Paris (with a delegation, of course), couldn't sing enough of her praises on a radio interview.

He said Rosenblum, who now runs a successful cosmetics industry, is "a self-made woman who started out with 10 grush [an abandoned coin of the early state] and now has a NIS 30 million turnover."

Unfortunately, Rosenblum had to turn down the tempting invitation because of family commitments. But she did pause to note that Shetreet "is a wonderful man. I'm sure I would have had a great time with him in Rome, as I did on a previous

trip to Paris." Hearing that the frail pope has flu, Shetreet gushed that the sight of Rosenblum could have done the ascetic pontiff a world of good because, "as you know, the sight of beautiful things, or a beautiful woman, improves one's feelings and disposition."

Asked about the excursion to Paris with La Pinna, Shetreet reminisced on their wonderful "cultural and educational experiences" which included a meeting with Charles Aznavour.

Not quite the pope, but there have been no reports of Aznavour coming down with flu since the beautiful visit.

THE RABBI AND THE DRAG QUEEN

Parliamentarians in favor of legalizing prostitution may get a lift from the odd case of transvestite Zalman Shoshani, who was arrested on suspicion of blackmailing a well-known Jerusalem *haredi* rabbi.

The country's most famous drag queen recently moved "business" from the sinful streets of Tel Aviv to the hallowed alleys of Mea She'arim, no less.

Business was so brisk in this neighborhood, Shoshani told police, that he charged clients a mere bargain NIS 18. However, the venerable rabbi promised to pay more, he said.

The rabbi arrived at the police station with a slightly different tale. A female prostitute had pickpocketed him after the act, he complained, and next day a man phoned and demanded NIS 2,000 for keeping quiet about the rabbi's tryst with a hooker in the *haredi* haven.

The rabbi apparently did not suspect he had been with the very man now attempting blackmail. Shoshani was arrested when he showed up for an agreed assignment with the rabbi.

Shoshani claims the client failed to pay him the additional sum agreed. He called the rabbi to warn him that unless he paid up, Shoshani would tell everyone that one of those highly positioned

haredi officials, who were always mouthing-off against institutionalizing prostitution, was himself using street prostitution services. Shoshani's lawyer, Zvi Lidsky, is now demanding that the rabbi's name be published, just as his

client's was. It is intolerable, Lidsky wrote in a letter to the attorney-general, that his client's name was being sneered all over the press, while the police hid the "respectable" rabbi's name under a veil of secrecy.

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Radon: Facts and fiction for the environmentally perturbed

When it comes to radon, don't worry, but be careful

IN the wake of the recent disclosure that a Jerusalem school building had unacceptable amounts of radon gas in its basement and possibly its ground floor, many people have become severely alarmed.

Some of them have been taken advantage of by unscrupulous radon testing services, while others are simply worried by the whole subject.

However, according to Dr. Jerry Westin of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School's Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, while radon is not acceptable as an environmental factor and is certainly to be taken seriously, there is no reason for panic or excessive concern.

Radon has been around as long as the earth. It is a natural radioactive gas, colorless and odorless, which certain geological formations emit.

It ordinarily escapes through naturally occurring fissures in the earth's crust, where it is rapidly diluted and dispersed in the open air.

Trouble arises when structures are built on top of such a natural fissure and are not properly ventilated, resulting in a radon build-up inside the structure. In

Smokers and pregnant women are the ones who need to be the most concerned, reports D'vora Ben Shaul

In this case, basements and ground floors may be contaminated, though higher floors are usually not.

Some geological formations are more likely to emit radon gas than others, such as those where the underlying rock formation is rich in phosphates. Arad, the Karmiel area, the Jerusalem area from Talpiot eastward and some areas of the West Bank are underlain by this type of rock formation.

Exposure to radon gas has been linked to lung cancer, and smoking is known to exacerbate

this link. However, radon has not been studied enough to draw any other conclusions.

Dr. Eilihu Richter, head of the Environmental Medicine department, warns that children may be more susceptible than adults and also suggests that pregnant women take extra precautions to avoid it.

Checking for the presence of radon gas doesn't need to be expensive. The preliminary test consists of leaving special canisters in chosen locations within the structure for a few days and then having a laboratory analyze them.

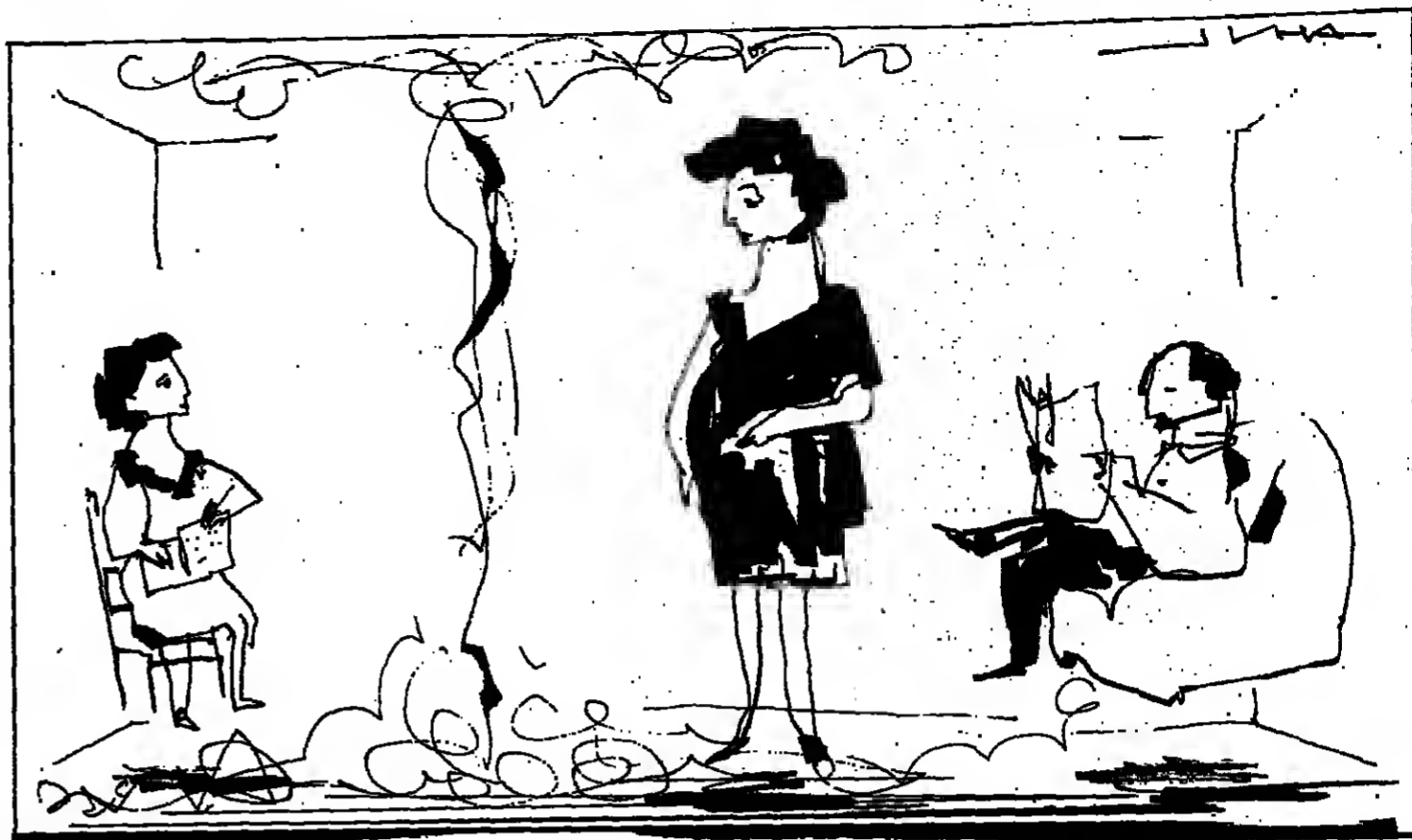
Only if this test indicates the presence of radon gas is any further testing needed.

Even if a building does prove to be contaminated, it is usually quite easy to solve the problem by increasing ventilation.

Usually the changes necessary are neither expensive nor time-consuming.

However, no action should be taken without consulting a certified laboratory facility.

An up-to-date list of such laboratories can be obtained from Dr. Ehud Ne'eman of the Environmental Ministry at (03) 641-4807/0555.



Experts say public panic is ridiculous

Radon isn't nearly as much of a threat here as feared, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

JEWs - and Israelis in general - have a significantly lower risk of contracting lung cancer from radon than non-Jewish residents of the US.

There are genetic, architectural and climatic reasons for this, says Dr. Gad Rennert, director of Kapat Holim Clalit's national cancer control center in Haifa.

First of all, Israelis are much less likely than Americans to live in low-rise housing and are much more likely to have their windows open most of the year. Since radon gas accumulates in basements and ground floors of buildings with uranium deposits beneath their foundations, and ventilation causes the radon to dissipate, the problem is much less worrisome here than in the US, Rennert says.

In the US, smoking (both active and sidestream) is responsible for some 90 percent of all lung-cancer cases, radon is responsible for about 8 percent, and the rest are due to genetic or unknown factors. Every year, some 1,000 Israelis are diagnosed with lung cancer. But because of different lifestyles here, lung cancer due to radon is much less common than in the US.

In addition, says the public health expert at Haifa's Carmel Hospital, the incidence of lung cancer among Israeli Jews is only 30 per 100,000, compared to 80 in the US and 90 in England. Controlling for smoking habits, US Jews have the same low rate as Israeli Jews, while among their non-Jewish neighbors it is much higher. There apparently is some genetic reason for this, Rennert

says, but exactly how this works is not known. (It certainly should not be used as an excuse to smoke, he stresses.)

Dr. Mordechai Kramer, a senior physician at the lung institute at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem, says that parents' reactions to the excessive levels of radon in an East Talpiot school were "understandable, perhaps, but hysterical."

"It takes decades of round-the-clock exposure to high levels of radon for it to cause lung cancer," he declares. "Schoolchildren usually don't attend classes in the basement, don't stay in school most of the day and don't attend the same school for decades."

Although the elementary school was tested for radon after a teacher diagnosed with breast cancer demanded it, Kramer and Rennert declare that among the massive amount of research conducted on radon since the early '80s, there has been no sign that radon causes anything but lung cancer - which, unfortunately, is incurable unless caught at a very early stage.

"If smoking is the No. 1 preventable cause of death in Israel, then traffic accidents are somewhat down the list, and radon is

number 100," Rennert notes.

However, smokers exposed to high levels of radon at home are asking for trouble. Puffing on 20 cigarettes a day for 20 years increases the risk of lung cancer by 1,600 percent, so combining this with radon exposure is a deadly mix. Kramer explains that tobacco smoke attaches itself to radon particles that become lodged in the lung tissue and are more dangerous than those inhaled by non-smokers.

The radon gas is inhaled into the lungs, where, after many years of exposure, changes in the DNA of the cells may occur, causing lung cancer. Most lung-cancer patients are diagnosed late - after the symptoms appear.

Sometimes it is first noticed when a chest x-ray is taken of patients about to undergo surgery for something else. The survival rate for lung cancer is very low: only 15 percent after one year. Such patients are not given the option of lung transplants, and chemotherapy severely weakens the body's immune system.

Still, taking the East Talpiot schoolchildren away from classes for over a week was "absurd," Kramer says.

"I would have allowed my child to attend classes there," he

says. "There is no risk from short-term exposure."

Rennert says that the exceptionally high levels of radon found in the school - some 700 times the permitted readings - should have been tested and monitored.

"Some think the gas may have been emitted as a result of the recent earthquake in Eilat. If so, I wouldn't worry, because the gas was released and dissipated. If not, other buildings in the immediate area should be tested too, but one can never know: one building can have high levels of radon and another can have no problem. Levels may also vary from room to room. Radon can enter a building through the foundations, pipes or a structural defect."

Rennert adds that geologically, Israel has minimal uranium deposits.

"There is no risk at all in coastal area buildings constructed on sandy soil," he explains. "Rocky areas may have radon, but there is no need to test every public building."

"If high levels are found in a neighborhood, residents could decide to have lower apartments tested. I myself have lived on the ground floor for five years, and I've been telling myself to have radon-levels tested, but I never got around to it," Rennert says. "I suppose that means I'm not worried about the risk."

In any case, if radon concentrations in any building exceed permitted levels, closing up pipes, ventilating and sealing foundations will solve every case.

State of Israel Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

The Minister of Immigrant Absorption's Prize for Immigrant Writers

The Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Mr. Yair Tzaban, has announced the awarding of annual prizes to immigrant writers in the field of literature.

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To be eligible, candidates must have arrived in Israel after January 1, 1970, be citizens of Israel and reside in the country.

The prize regulations and forms to be filled out by candidates are available at the Public Council of Immigrant Absorption, 117 Rehov Hahashmona'im, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5627606/7. The completed forms must be returned by March 5, 1996, together with four copies of the material submitted for consideration for the prize.

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A 'reporter' who would rather make policy

EYE ON THE MEDIA

MORTON KLEIN and DAVID BAR-ILLAN

ON January 7, the *New York Times* *Week in Review* (reprinted the next day in *The Jerusalem Post*) featured a Thomas Friedman article in the form of a letter from US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Syrian dictator Hafez Assad.

A journalistic device *New York Times* correspondent Friedman sometimes employs when he authors an op-ed piece is "the letter I'd write if I were..." Some find Friedman's method entertaining. Others consider it pretentious and some even suspect it betrays an ambition to be shaping history instead of just reporting it. They recall Friedman's college declaration that he wanted to "work at the Middle East desk" of the State Department (*The Brandeis Justice*, February 11, 1975).

In Friedman's January 7 "letter," he seems to have tripped over one of his own past indiscretions. Towards the letter's end, Friedman has "Christopher" telling Assad: "In the old days, Hafez, I would have given you my phone number and told you to call when you were serious. But that wouldn't be appropriate now."

Nobody familiar with US Middle East policy will be able to recall any "old days," ever, when Christopher or any other US Secretary of State got tough with an Arab dictator, giving him his phone number and telling him to "call when you are serious." But,

of course, that hard-nosed tactic was used by Christopher's predecessor, James Baker, against America's only democratic ally in the region, Israel. And he did it in public, at a 1990 Congressional hearing, to guarantee front-page international news coverage that would maximize the pressure on Israel.

The catch here is that it was Friedman himself who was the author of Baker's "here's my phone number" gambit. One of the most startling revelations in Baker's new autobiography is that the choice of this tactic to humiliate Israel was Friedman's idea. At the time, Friedman was a supposedly neutral Washington reporter for the *New York Times*, not a State Department adviser. Yet, as Baker puts it, "I occasionally asked Friedman to share his thoughts with me on an off-the-record basis."

In light of all this, it's interesting to consider how others in the US media perceived Friedman's role during his days as a Washington reporter. Investigative journalist David Brock, of *The American Spectator*, once named Friedman as one of a small group of Washington reporters who were "apparently happy to have Baker dictate their stories for them."

An editorial in *The New Republic* referred to Friedman as "The *New York Times*'s State Department spokesman, Thomas L. Friedman," and described him as writing "the usual on-the-road

puff pieces" for the "James Baker Ministry of Information." The left-wing *D.C. City Paper* complained that Friedman had become "the conduit through which Baker irrigates the front page of the *New York Times* with his foreign affairs insights"; it characterized one of Friedman's articles as reading "like a personal hand-out from Baker's office to the *Newspaper of Record*."

It seems that David Brock, *The New Republic* and the *D.C. City Paper* didn't give Friedman enough credit. He wasn't just taking dictation from Baker; sometimes - as in the 1990 phone-number affair - he was "sharing his thoughts" with Baker and thereby playing a role in how Baker treated Israel.

Now Friedman has turned around and attempted to insert the "phone number" maneuver into Warren Christopher's make-believe thinking, as if it has always been a natural part of American public discourse and US Middle East policy - when in fact it was, and still is, the crude invention of a journalist with a bias against Israel and decades-old hopes of changing Israel's policies instead of just reporting them.

A valid point, almost Cordelia Edvardson, the Oslo daily correspondent for the Oslo daily

Aftenposten, does not make a secret of her enmity for *The Jerusalem Post*. She found publisher Yehuda Levy's cry of agony after the Rabin assassination, printed in the *Post* on the Monday following the murder and quoted by international news agencies and television networks, particularly offensive. After all, she averred, the *Post* was critical of Rabin's policies. It had no right to mourn him.

Edvardson found even more offensive a December 22 *Post* report of an interview with Beer-sheva mayor Yitzhak Rager, who in 1967 commanded the IDF unit which accepted the Bethlehem surrender. More than half of her January 2 story from Jerusalem, titled "The Cultural Discard in Israel," is devoted to *The Jerusalem Post*.

"No one who during the Christmas weekend read newspapers, listened to the radio or saw television can be ignorant about the overwhelming joy Bethlehem's Palestinians demonstrated at their first Christmas in freedom, after 28 years of Israeli occupation."

"Therefore, the astonishment was great when *The Jerusalem Post*, Israel's only English-language newspaper, threw the following headline right in the face of the reader: 'Bethlehem's liber-

ator has mixed feelings about the Israeli army's withdrawal.'

"Bethlehem's liberator? Yes, that's the man who in June 1967 led the Israeli occupation soldiers' entry into Bethlehem. 'It should perhaps be added that the chief editor each week castigates foreign journalists for their bias, ignorance and disparaging comments' among other offenses which they commit in their reporting from Israel. If they are not antisemites or Jews who are plagued with self-hatred, then at any rate they're a disgrace to their occupation, believes the newspaper's chief editor."

"I don't know who made the headline about 'Bethlehem's liberator' but it's quite certain it was not a non-religious person on the left wing. It cannot have been one of these Israelis who 'lacks any faith, is without values and does not keep anything sacred.' With these words, Mordechai Eliash, the country's former Sephardi chief rabbi, described the country's secular public."

"Probably, the headline writer can be found among that part of the population which was praised by the chief rabbi because they lend themselves to the study of the holy scriptures, keep the commandments and never, never intend to give up a single centimeter of the 'Land of Israel'

(read West Bank) to foreign dominion (Palestinians)."

Edvardson's antagonism is palpable, and her delicious description of the nefarious headline writer should cause some merriment at the *The Jerusalem Post* desk, where the sub-editors' devotion to 'the study of the holy scriptures' is a little less than total. The *Post* does not inquire into the politics of its employees, but the odds that the headline writer is precisely what Edvardson said he or she would not be - a "non-religious person on the left wing" - are better than even.

But all this is more amusing than relevant. The point Edvardson makes cannot be dismissed as invalid. A headline naming Rager the "liberator" of Bethlehem is, on the face of it, tendentious. It editorializes by injecting a point of view into a news story.

The problem is that there is no fitting alternative. This is not only because the people of Bethlehem, who expressed boundless joy at the arrival of the PA last month, acted quite similarly in 1967. As the *Post* story, which Edvardson obviously chooses not to believe, had it, the IDF was "met with singing and open arms." And the fact is that Elias Freij, the very same Bethlehem mayor who last month hanged Jews from the Christmas festivities in his town, signed a petition to the Israeli government in 1967 demanding that Bethlehem be annexed to Jerusalem.

Nor can an Israeli paper con-

sider a town taken from an aggressor sworn to the state's destruction anything but "liberated" - particularly if it happens to be part of the Land of Israel. Edvardson may consider this a distorted appellation, used only by religious fanatics for the "West Bank." But to all Jews - even those eager to relinquish it - Bethlehem is still part of the Land of Israel. Moreover, the Jews' right to this land, including the "West Bank," was recognized by the League of Nations Mandate, which gave international legitimacy to the Zionist enterprise.

Edvardson would undoubtedly prefer to describe Rager as Bethlehem's "occupier," presumably because the town's inhabitants are Arabs. But Jaffa and Nazareth were also Arab towns when they were liberated, and one assumes (perhaps rashly) that Edvardson recognizes both as legitimate Israeli possessions. Nor can one help suspecting that she would not call, say, the Czechs "occupiers" of the Sudetenland just because the area's inhabitants were German. This, despite the fact that the Czech claim to the Sudetenland is neither as old nor as valid as Israel's claim to Bethlehem.

Using "liberator" in the headline is therefore the worst choice ... except for any other.

Morton Klein is the president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Is high also mighty?

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds," the American poet/philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson taught.

People forget the "foolish" qualification and tend to think that inconsistency reflects a great, creative mind, or at least a mind responsive to the supposed realities of the moment.

This may help explain the tergiversations of our political/security establishment regarding the question which comes first, security or peace.

Two years ago, Ori Orr, a former senior IDF commander who was then chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, declared: "The IDF will control the ridges overlooking the Hula Valley and Lake Kinneret ... [and] continue to hold the Hermon" (*Shishi*, January 21, 1994).

Six months later he cautioned: "Total evacuation of the Golan will band over to Syria an area of strategic value of the first order, [which] is apt to endanger Israel's security in the future..." Furthermore, the significance of the Golan for Israel lies not only in the strategic sphere: "We established Jewish residence on the Golan in the firm belief that the days of Zionist action were not yet over" (*Al Hamishmar*, June 21, 1994).

A month ago, Orr, now deputy defense minister, said as categorically: "Let no one have any illusions: in the end, we will come down from the Golan.... If someone in Dimona will be able to get into his car and travel through to Damascus, why will we need early-warning stations?" (*Yediot Aharonot*, December 22). He spoke similarly last weekend (*Haaretz*, January 14).

Earlier, Chief of General Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak spoke of the Golan's "exceptional strategic importance." He said: "No sophisticated weaponry or electronic system of any sort, although they might be of some help, can replace the importance of the Golan Heights if we should have to go to war" (*The Jerusalem Post*, December 11).

And shortly afterwards, Shahak told the committee Orr formerly headed: "In case of war, territory is very important. There

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

is a big difference between setting out for battle from the Hula Valley and setting out from Kmeitra [a Golan town just inside the Syrian side of the demarcation line]. When speaking of peace, you have to know what kind of peace is being talked about" (*Davar Rishon*, December 27).

In that same issue of *Davar Rishon*, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres was quoted as saying: "The problem isn't whether to come down from the Golan, but whether to give up on the idea of peace."

TWENTY-TWO YEARS ago Peres had a more positive attitude to the strategic value of heights for Israel. He expressed this attitude to Henry Kissinger, then US secretary of state striving to persuade Israel to "disengage" from Syria by giving up strategic heights in the Golan.

Kissinger had spoken, probably with at least a faint touch of disdain, of Israel's "love for hills." Peres, then our minister of information, wrote to Kissinger suggesting that this "love" harks back three millennia, to the time of Ahab, the biblical ruler of the northern Kingdom of Israel.

In I Kings 20 we read how the Aramaean ruler of Damascus, Ben-Haddad, lays siege to Shomron (Samaria), Ahab's capital. He demands certain tribute of Ahab, which the latter agrees to give him. Ben-Haddad responds with a message saying that the next day his men would come to collect the agreed tribute and also to search Ahab's house and take "whatever [else] is precious to you." (Isn't this a familiar postlude to appeasement?)

Ahab, with the consent of the elders, responds by going to war against Ben-Haddad and routs the Aramaeans.

The following year Ben-Haddad goes to war against Ahab again. This time, his servants tell him: "Their [the Jews'] God is a god of the hills; that is why they were stronger than us. So let us fight them in the plain, and we will certainly overpower them."

But again Ahab routs the Ara-

maeans, and this time Ben-Haddad has to meet Ahab's terms, and he returns to Damascus with his tail between his legs.

Peres ended the letter by saying: "All that took place in the 10th century BCE; and the negotiators used borses! Best of luck and many happy returns."

He did not remind Kissinger of Ahab's initial appeasement and its outcome. Nor did he remind him of the story's denouement.

After Ahab concludes a pact with the defeated Ben-Haddad and sends him back to Damascus, a prophet tells him: "So says God: 'Because you let go the man [Ben-Haddad] whom I had marked for destruction, your life shall go for his life and your people for his people.'"

Indeed, a few years later Ahab, on the advice of false prophets, goes to war against the Aramaeans in the Gilead Heights, and is killed in battle.

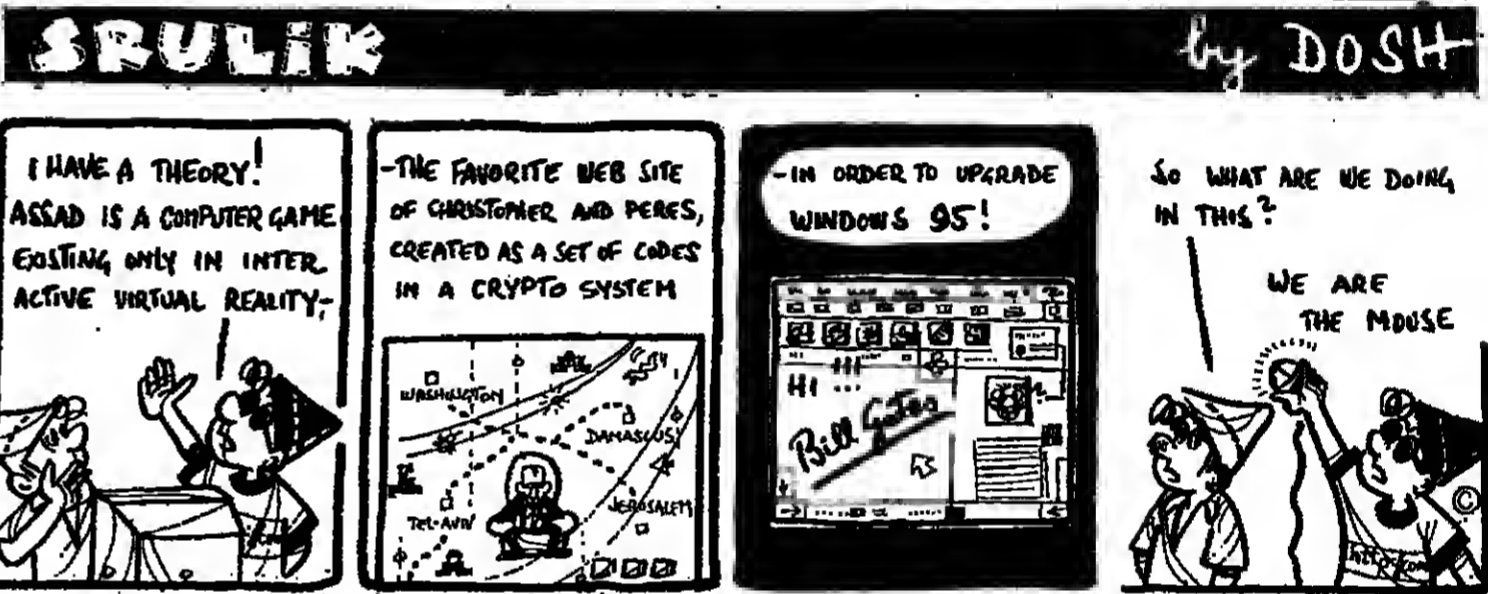
AHAB IS one of three monarchs and four laypersons who the Talmudic Sages say have no portion in the World-to-Come. This is because in his time the land was rife with idolatry.

Yet he was mourned in the traditional fashion and given a proper burial. This is because he did one good thing: When an enemy arrow mortally wounded him as he rode in his war chariot, he told his driver to place him in an upright position in the chariot, so the troops should not see him wounded and panic as a result.

Notwithstanding his wickedness, Ahab reigned 22 years because he honored the Torah which is written in the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. We know this from his refusal to hand over to Ben-Haddad the palace Torah Scroll; this is what the Aramaean monarch meant by "whatever is precious to you."

Ahab's father, Omri, was also wicked, yet he rose to the kingship and reigned 12 years because he added a city to Eretz Yisrael. That city was Shomron, which he built on the hill he bought from Shemer, naming it after him.

(See *The Jerusalem Post*, May 22, 1974; I Kings 16:21-22:40, *Gittin* 88a, *Sanhedrin* 90a and 102b, *Vayikra Rabbah* 26:2, *Mo'ed Katan* 28b. And thanks to Zvi Torem of Jerusalem.)



Inheritance and heritage do differ

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHILOMO RISKIN

"And I will bring you unto the land concerning which I raised My hand to give it to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage (*morasha*): I am God." (Exodus 6:8)

EVERY parent would like to leave an inheritance to his children and grandchildren; some even work their entire lives, denying themselves vacations and little luxuries to amass some sort of nest-egg as an inheritance.

And others live in disappointed frustration, because they fear they will not have the wherewithal to leave behind a sizable "will and testament."

What does our Torah have to say about a proper bequest for future generations? The Bible has two cognate words which relate to bequest - *morasha* and *yerusha*; the first form, which appears for the first time in the Torah in this week's portion of *Va'era*, is generally translated as heritage; *yerusha* is translated as inheritance.

The different contexts in which the words *morasha* and *yerusha* appear can be very revealing about different kinds of bequests - different priorities handed down from generation to generation.

Let us explore four different possible distinctions in meaning between *yerusha* and *morasha* which should provide important instruction to parents.

First, the Jerusalem Talmud speaks of *yerusha* as something that comes easily. A person dies, leaving an inheritance, and the heir is not required to do anything except receive the gift.

But just being there is not enough when it comes to *morasha*. The added "mem" in this term, suggests the Jerusalem Talmud, is a grammatical sign of intensity, the "pi'el" form in Hebrew grammar. In order for an individ-

ual to come into possession of a *morasha* he has to work for it.

An inheritance is what you get without your input; a heritage requires your active involvement. A *yerusha* is a check your father left you; a *morasha* is a business which your parents may have started, but into which you must put sweat, blood and tears.

In order to further emphasize this point, the Bible generally uses the terms *yerusha* and *morasha* only in reference to Torah and the Land of Israel. That the Land of Israel is called *morasha* we see in our citation.

And when the 12 tribes are blessed at the end of Deuteronomy, the biblical text declares: "Moses prescribed the Torah to us, an eternal heritage (*morasha*) for the congregation of Jacob." (Deut. 33:4) Furthermore, the Talmudic sages remark that there are three gifts which God gave the Jewish people that can only be acquired through commitment and suffering: "Torah, the Land of Israel and the World to Come." (B.T. *Berachot* 5a)

We understand that neither Torah nor the Land of Israel is acquired easily. The Sages specifically teach that "Torah is not an inheritance," a *yerusha* which comes automatically to the children of Torah scholars.

All achievement in Torah depends on an individual's efforts. Maimonides writes that on the path of Torah acquisition a person must be willing to eat only bread and drink only water, even snatching momentary sleep on the ground rather than in a comfortable bed (Laws of Torah Study 3:6). Indeed, no one can merit the crown of Torah unless he is willing to destroy his desire for material blandishments while in pursuit of Torah

expertise (ibid. 12). Similarly the Land of Israel cannot be acquired without sacrifice and suffering. The final test in the life of Abraham and the source of the Jewish claim to Jerusalem is the binding of Isaac on Mt. Moriah; the message conveyed by the Bible is that we can only acquire our Holy Land if we are willing to place the lives of our children on the line. Nothing is more apparent in modern Israel.

The second difference between *morasha* and *yerusha* is bound up with the first. The Sages of the Mishnah tie in the word *morasha* to a cognate term which sounds similar: Don't only read *morasha* but also read *morasha*, fiancée. The kind of passionate love one feels for a fiancée is what provides an individual with the strength, courage and commitment to make sacrifices willingly.

Yerusha requires no special feeling. *Morasha* demands emotional commitment. And so it has always been regarding Torah and Israel for the Jews.

Torah is not just another intellectual pursuit, but a labor of love. Similarly, the relationship with the land is one of love. The love of the Sages for the Holy Land was so great that the Talmud describes how they would roll in its dust and kiss its earth (B.T. *Ke'ubot* 112).

The difference between *yerusha* and *morasha* is also the difference between that which is tangle and that which is intangible. You can put your hands on a *yerusha*; you can deposit it in the bank or hang it on the wall.

A *morasha* can be an idea, an ideal, a way of life. A Yiddish song puts it well: "My parents couldn't leave me the car, but they left me a prayer: 'Go with God.' My parents couldn't leave me money, but they left me a charge: 'Give to those less fortunate.' My parents couldn't leave me jewelry, but they left me an ideal: 'Be a mensch.' They only left me words, but those words are the bedrock of my life."

Don't worry if you missed Hanukka, donations are always welcome

FUNDS
BEVERLEE BLACK

THERE'S no need to apologize for late contributions; it doesn't make any difference when donations are sent in. The Toy Fund is no longer a seasonal campaign for Hanukka. It is now a year-round effort to assist children living in institutions and foster homes - as well as youngsters from needy families - with health care, help in education and other basic necessities.

Don't forget, the Forsake Me Not Fund and Welcome Home Fund need your ongoing support as well. Send your checks today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the US wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 East

43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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NIS 180 in loving memory of Seymour Rabinowitz (Rabbi) - Your children Roni, Ilana, Dafna and Hesh Rabinowitz, Moshe Sde Nitzan.
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NIS 118 in memory of Hy and Helen Rosenthal and Dr. Ronny Rosenthal - Roni, Ilana, Dafna and Hesh Rabinowitz, Moshe Sde Nitzan.
NIS 100 Joe and Herpet Serphos, Haifa.
In honor of my brothers Leonard and Charles - Hyman Rosenson, J'm.
NIS 90 Y. Seeligman, J'm.
NIS 75 To Mrs. D. Patricia Minarce, Mil-

ton Glass and the Goldman and Pickman Family, condolences on the loss of a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother - Shelly Clark, White Plains, NY. Gila Sack, J'm. To the continued happiness and health of Iona Eber, Arlene Corso and Ade Harrison - Shelly Clark, NY.
NIS 50 in memory of my beloved father - Judy Shmueli, Ramat Hasharon.
NIS 40 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiseman - Regina Wiseman, BeerSheva.
NIS 30 in honor of Aliza and Haim Levy's 17th birthday - Iris Levy, Bnei Brak. Avraham Amrani, Ramat Yisrael.
NIS 18 in honor of Marilynn Aronov's birthday - the Borvina Family, J'm.
NIS 10 E. Rosenztein, Netanya.
\$1,000 in honor of the birth of our son, Jay Herbert - Mr. and Mrs. David Fleisher, New York, NY.
\$250 Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund, San Francisco, CA.
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\$20 in memory of Milton Goldstein on his yahrzeit - Ethel Goldstein, Netanya. In loving memory of my husband, Elie - Hannah Tal, Berkeley, CA.
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Logic over signals

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North	East
♠ Q10862	♠ A1974
♥ Q96	♥ K3
♦ Q75	♦ K8
♣ Q5	♣ A984

West (Beuschamp)	East (Chadwick)
♠ K3	♠ A1974
♥ A842	♥ K3
♦ 4	♦ K8
♣ K10763	♣ A984

South	West	North	East
♠ 5	♠ 3	♠ 3	♠ 3
♥ J1075	♥ 3	♥ 3	♥ 3
♦ A109632	♦ 3	♦ 3	♦ 3
♣ 2	♣ 3	♣ 3	♣ 3

read the nine as a mild suit-preference for hearts. This conforms to the popular style of many experts, who signal suit-preference at trick one when a continuation of the suit led is logically out of the question. East might have signaled with the seven or four, so the nine was clearly a call for a heart play, the higher ranking of dummy's two side suits.

(My own view on the subject, as expressed in the book *A Switch in Time*, is the signal at trick one should always be "attitude." In this case, a low spade would call for the "obvious shift," which is clubs, West's bid suit. Playing attitude signals, the nine of spades would express no interest in a club shift, and therefore, by process of elimination, interest in a heart shift.)

At trick two, West found the excellent shift to a low heart, away from his ace. East won the king of hearts and returned a heart. West won the ace and played a third round of hearts for East to ruff. Since West had the choice of returning the eight of hearts or the four, and chose the four, East knew that his partner preferred a club return to a spade return.

Therefore, at trick five, he shifted to a club, away from his ace, and West gained the lead for a fourth round of hearts. Declarer desperately ruffed high in dummy, but East's king of diamonds topped the queen for the sixth defensive trick. That meant down four, 800 to East-West, a terrific result, since the club slam was difficult to reach.

Readers may argue, this is all interesting but a bit complicated, and I would have to concur. Often a simpler approach to defense is to study the position and work it out for yourself. This is the manner in which defense is learned at the money bridge table, where signals are not so subtle or reliable.

A seasoned rubber bridge player, sitting East, might analyze in the following fashion after the lead of the spade king: "My partner's three-club overcall indicates the king of that suit. He must hold a red ace as well for his bid, and the odds are astronomical that the ace is in hearts, not diamonds, South's long suit. So why torture my partner with a subtle signal, when I can do it myself?"

East proceeds to overtake the king of spades with his ace and play the king of hearts. From this point on, the same result is achieved without the enormous pressure of West having to read East's "perfect" signal at trick one.

THIS week's deal was submitted to the International Bridge Press Association by Ron Klinger, of Australia, for the best defense of 1995. Klinger is the author of several fine books, including the entertaining *Kosher Bridge II* (a sequel to *Kosher Bridge*), which he wrote in collaboration with English author David Bird.

Klinger came across the deal during a qualifying match for the Grand National Open Teams of Australia. The heroes were two of his teammates, David Beauchamp, who sat West, and Ted Chadwick, East. The rest of his team, which won the event, included Peter Newman, Marilyn Chadwick and Kim Morrison, all from Sydney.

The bidding was filled with tactical nuances. South started with a weak two-bid in diamonds and West overcalled three clubs. North raised to three diamonds (which prevented East from cuebidding) and East bid three spades. South, with shortness in both black suits, now made an excellent preempt to five diamonds, preventing East-West from further exploration.

West decided to double this, though he probably should have passed to indicate a singleton diamond. If he had passed, his partner might have taken the hint and bid a slam in clubs, which is lay-down. As it was, five diamonds doubled became the final contract.

West led the king of spades and East signaled with the nine, which was a perfect signal under the circumstances. West knew every spade spot in his partner's hand, because of the three-spade bid, and



Pods that remain on a carob tree after rainfall are especially tempting to bees. (David Rubinger)

Bees and their favorite trees

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

LOQUAT, or *shesek*, trees are now in full bloom. The clumps of small white blossoms are so heavy that they even bend the young boughs. Every bough is covered with bees foraging for nectar, which is plentiful in this sweet winter blossom.

It's not unusual to see so many bees about at this time of year, but the bees have definitely responded to the atypically warm weather we have enjoyed in Galilee since the last rain. I would not have been surprised if many of the foragers had been wild bees

of the Syrian strain, but these bees are definitely domesticated. They are all tawny, small, downy and, most significantly, unaggressive. This indicates that they are well-kept bees from hives in which the artificially inseminated queen is replaced yearly.

Last week one fell into the small fishpond on my balcony and I took her out with my finger.

She preened her wings and her body and then flew away.

Loquats are actually one of the more insignificant plants tempting the bees. During the recent rains, the carob pods that somehow remained on the trees absorbed a lot of moisture. Now, as the weather dries them out, each remaining pod is exuding from every seam a thick, sweet substance called "honeydew."

The bees are busy collecting every drop. It not only will fuel their small engines but, properly processed, will also help them to replenish their store of food for winter, which their owners have taken.

After all, bees make and store honey for their own needs. Beekeepers try to compensate after taking the bees' entire hoard by giving them sugar. But this is not the same, and whenever the weather permits bees search for additional nectar.

Changing of the guard

CHESS

NICK KOPALOFF

ENDING a 13-year reign as president of chess's main governing body, Federation Internationale des Echecs, Florencio Campomanes, 69, tendered his resignation at the turbulent 66th FIDE congress in Paris two months ago.

Campomanes had been unable to shake off allegations of improprieties at the 1994 Moscow Olympiad. Since then, his aborted attempts for a reunification between FIDE and Garry Kasparov's breakaway Professional Chess Association have made him the focus of widespread mistrust.

These suspicions have been bolstered by his inability to come up with a venue to host the FIDE World Championship, the necessary prelude for a FIDE/PCA merger.

Campomanes resigned with the condition that he would be succeeded by the no less controversial millionaire oil and caviar magnate Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, 33, president of the Russian republic of Kalmyk and a member of the Russian parliament.

The British Chess magazine reports that Ilyumzhinov plans to turn his republic into not only a world chess mecca but also a center of world religion. He has donated six hectares to the Vatican to build a monastery and four hectares to Saddam Hussein to build a mosque.

Ilyumzhinov pledges to merge FIDE and the PCA and plans to organize an annual World Chess Championship.

"My intention is to sit both Kasparov and Karpov at the same table and [offer] them some Kalmyk lamb and a liter of vodka so we can make peace and solve all the problems."

ously exposed.
15...Re8 16.g5 Nc7 17.Qc2 Bc8 18.Rg2 Bb7 19.Rd1 g6 20.Bc1; the thematic move. Karpov clears the third rank to facilitate Rd1-d3-h3.

20...Rbc8 21.Ra3 Nb4 22.Rh3 Bg7 23.Be3 Re7 24.Kg1 Rce8 25.Rd1 f5; seizing the initiative at the cost of a pawn.

26.gxf6.p. Nc6 27.Rg3 Rf7 28.Bxb6 Qb8 29.Be3 Nb5 30.Rg4 Nf6 31.Rb4 g5 32.fxg5 Ng4 33.Qd2 Nxe3 34.Qxe3 Nxc2 35.Qb6 Bc6 36.Rxd6 - the critical blunder. 36.Qxb8 Rxb8 37.Bh3 would have kept Karpov's hopes alive.

36... Rb7 37.Qxa6 Rxb3 38.Rxa6 Rxb2 39.Qc4 Kb8 40.e5

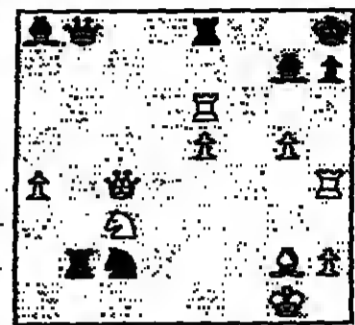


DIAGRAM 1 after White's 40th move
40...Qa7+ 41.Kh1 Bxg2+ 42.Kg2 Nd4+ 0-1

The following classic endgame problem was composed over a century ago by G. Barbier and F. Saavedra and first appeared in the *Glasgow Weekly Citizen* in 1895. White will win if he succeeds in promoting his e pawn. But if the rook is exchanged for the pawn, Black will draw. Thinking caps on, this one is not easy.

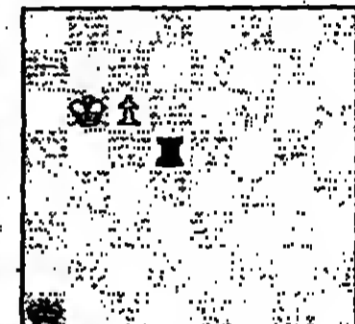


DIAGRAM 2
Solution: 1.e7 Rd6+ 2.Kb5; if the King moves to c5 then Black plays 2...Rd1, and Rcl next move will force the capture of the pawn. 2...Rd5+ 3.Kb4 Rd4+ 4.Kb3 Rd3+ 5.Kc2; it would appear that Black has run out of checks, but digging deep Black finds 5...Rd4!; now if 6.c8=Q Black draws after 6...Rc4+ 7.Qxc4 stalemate 6.Rc8=R!!; threatening Ra8 mate 6...Ra4 7.Kb3 hitting the rook on a4 and threatening mate on c1. 1-0.

WITH ONLY one game left to be played in the 1985 World Championship match, the holder, Karpov, narrowly trailed Kasparov 12-11, but had the White pieces for the deciding game. A 12-12 tie would have meant Karpov retained the crown. Kasparov chose his favorite Scheveningen variation of the Sicilian, a volatile double-edged line whose cramped defense becomes an explosive attack. If Ilyumzhinov keeps his word, these two great soon could be at it again.

Karpov, A. - Kasparov, G.
Moscow 1985
Sicilian Defense -
Scheveningen Variation

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.f4 0-0 9.Kh1 Qc7 10.g4 Nc6 11.Be3 Re8 12.Bf3 Bb8 13.Qd2 Bc7 14.Nb3 b6 15.g5; going all out for a win, Karpov chooses the most aggressive line. The drawback is that he leaves his own king danger-

Taking advantage of microclimates

GARDENING

INEZ KLAMST

HAVE you ever wondered why your yarrow is only 40 centimeters high and cuttings from the same plant in your neighbor's yard are 60 cm high? Or why the impatiens in one part of your garden die off at the first sign of cold weather and those on the other side of the garden are still blooming in late December? Why do your tulips bloom two or three weeks later than those of your friends?

There can be many reasons for these phenomena. Sun, soil conditions, and amounts of fertilizer and water are some causes. These are called microclimates. Microclimates are the climates of very small areas in a garden or patio which differ from the general climate of the whole.

Every landscape, however small, has these microclimates created by surrounding topography, structures, paved areas and other vegetation. We can use these areas to our advantage when planting our gardens.

If you are a sensitive and careful gardener, you have used these microclimates without really being aware that you were doing it. You have automatically planted your violets under the branches of a bush, knowing that they prefer shade. Your fuchsias are planted next to a neighboring wall which will protect their brittle branches from winter winds.

Another factor which contributes to microclimates is air flow: cold air drainage, and hot air traps. We tend to forget about these.

You are aware that your feet are getting cold before the rest of

flow around and away from them:

ONE OF the most frustrating experiences for a gardener is having a tree or shrub that does not flower as expected. Nothing looks more forlorn, for example, than a redbud (*Cercis*) in spring without its rosy flowers.

Sometimes the explanation is a plant too immature to flower, improper or ill-timed pruning or over-fertilization. But winter kill of the buds may be the cause at high altitudes.

Flower buds are more cold-sensitive than the vegetative buds which give rise to leaves and shoots. Plants most often affected are redbuds, magnolias, camellias and flowering cherry, because these plants form the flower buds on the autumn growth and must manage the winter.

Plants which form flower buds on the new spring growth, such as butterfly bush (*Buddleia*), hibiscus, spirea and many of the hydrangeas, are not affected by the cold.

ON TUESDAY - SPORTS DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

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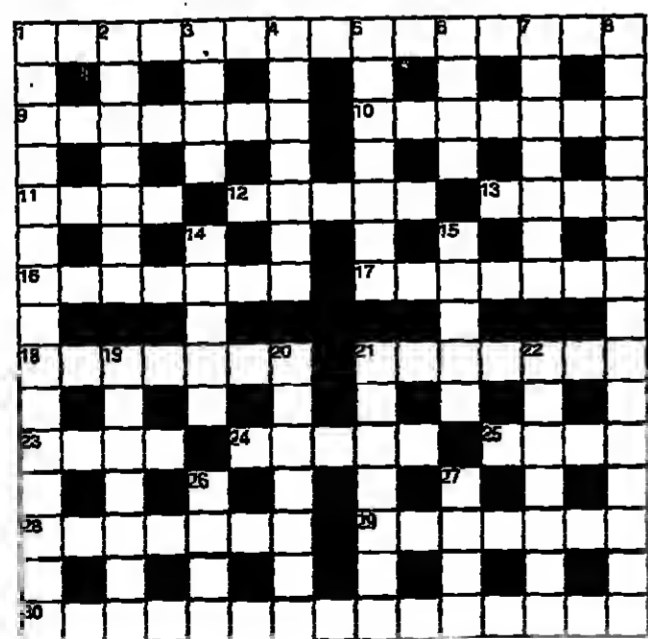
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- This contest will be a close one (4,2,4,5)
- Gems that may appear strange in a new setting (7)
- The padre is sunk in gloom (7)
- A meeting of hands express approval (4)
- Climbing gear? (5)
- Dole out food, say? (4)
- Find made by a hunter (7)
- Profligate poet? (7)
- Deal in cars (7)
- Being hardened, a summons is nothing to us (7)
- Prepare for take-off? (4)
- Interrupt a rest period (5)

DOWN

- Some passer-by from Belgrade? (4)
- Passage shows the band has style (7)
- Leaps in, disturbing the dog (7)
- A new broom often makes them (8,7)
- Important arbiters - Wimbledon umpires? (4,5,6)
- Hastened up with speed to tell the tale (7)
- Bound to be drawn (4)
- Finding cannabis will settle his hash (7)



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1. GAMES, 2. RUBY, 3. DUST, 4. DUST, 5. DUST, 6. DUST, 7. DUST, 8. DUST, 9. DUST, 10. DUST, 11. DUST, 12. DUST, 13. DUST, 14. DUST, 15. DUST, 16. DUST, 17. DUST, 18. DUST, 19. DUST, 20. DUST, 21. DUST, 22. DUST, 23. DUST, 24. DUST, 25. DUST.

DOWN: 1. GAMES, 2. RUBY, 3. DUST, 4. DUST, 5. DUST, 6. DUST, 7. DUST, 8. DUST, 9. DUST, 10. DUST, 11. DUST, 12. DUST, 13. DUST, 14. DUST, 15. DUST, 16. DUST, 17. DUST, 18. DUST, 19. DUST, 20. DUST, 21. DUST, 22. DUST, 23. DUST, 24. DUST, 25. DUST.

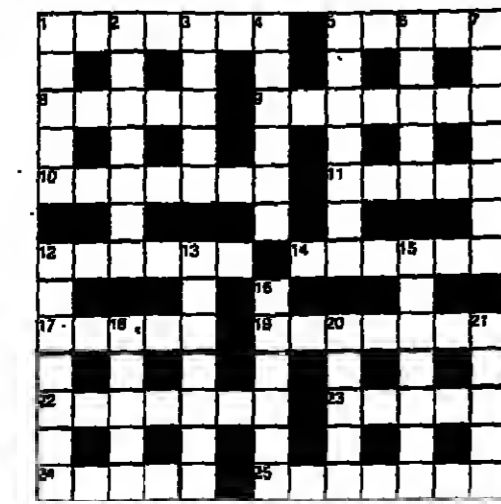
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Articulation (7)
- Harass (5)
- Belief (5)
- Impassive (7)
- Arbiter (7)
- Spokes (5)
- Look over (6)
- Level (6)
- Perfect (5)
- Naive (7)
- Generous (7)
- Nimble (5)
- Search for water (5)
- Pleas (7)

DOWN

- Dissuade (5)
- Evergreen tree (7)
- Bury (5)
- Asexual (6)
- Uneventful (7)
- Roamed (5)
- Jewish dialect (7)
- Expert (7)
- Amplify (7)
- Aperture (7)
- Wan (6)
- Arm joint (5)
- Track (5)
- Dulcet (5)



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FERNAND

Megiddo: State of the art excavation

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE restorer always has to follow a fine line between recreating the past as it was and making sites accessible to visitors.

This problem may be seen in the excavations at Megiddo, where the National Parks Authority has recently renovated the water tunnel in the ancient site by which the Israelite kings made it possible to collect water from outside the city walls during a time of siege.

These days the tunnel is better lit than in the past, ensuring that none of the some 200,000 visitors a year falls and breaks a leg.

On the other hand, site director Yehoshua Nissim is concerned that by providing more lighting, he might be destroying the feeling that it is a tunnel which was hewn through the rock with tremendous effort.

Megiddo itself is a good example of a state-of-the-art restored excavation.

There is a clear and informative video presentation at the visitors' center, so that both groups and individuals can have an understanding of what it is that they are about to see.

This is especially important for a place like Megiddo, whose importance lies mainly in its geographical location, at the crossroads of strategic routes throughout history, making it the scene of many famous battles.

The center also has a large-scale model, complete with some levels which rise up to display the archaeological levels underneath. There is also a series of lights to identify various parts of the large tel.

However, according to Nissim, the model is so designed that every time a light bulb burns out, the staff has to call in the designer of the model from Tel Aviv to replace it.

For Christians, Megiddo is also the site of the last great battle yet to come at the end of days, and it is this fact which makes it one of the favorite Christian sites in Israel.

It was also at Megiddo that pope Paul VI chose to be officially welcomed into Israel by president Zalman Shazar.

For the visitor, the view itself of the Jezreel Valley is probably just as impressive and memorable as the monumental gate and stables built by King Ahab.

At this time of year, with a cool wind blowing, it is very pleasant to enjoy this view, but it is less so in the summer, when the hot sun is beating down.

Among the current plans for the site are a series of shaded areas to provide some respite to the visitors.

The site is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (5 p.m. in summer).

Whoosh! Take a ride on the puppy express

A professional musher gets a rush from fast dogs and snow-capped mountains, Dina O'Meara writes from Alberta

THIS musher wore eye shadow and lipstick, her eight-year-old helper a knitted ski cap. It's not exactly what you might expect when setting off for a half-day journey into the Canadian wilderness on one of the oldest forms of transportation.

But then again, for novices on the trail, anything to do with mushing is exotic. And a lot more fun than for poor old Sam in the Robert Service poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee." The yelping dogs, the lightweight sleighs, the spectacular setting high up in the Rocky Mountains all combine to make a drive memorable.

While Connie Arsenault and her daughter Carolyn untangled leads and hauled dogs to the line, hyped-up tourists stomped their feet in the winter chill, anxious to start their adventure. This trip would last about four hours and cross silent mountain passes, frozen lakes and snow-covered meadows in the Spray Lakes Valley, about an hour out of Banff, Alberta.

Arsenault, 36, owner and operator of Snow Owl Tours, grew up roaming provincial parks as the daughter of forest rangers. At 19, she watched her first dog-sledding competition and became hooked, buying two fast dogs and a sled without, she admits, any real knowledge of the sport.

With no experience, she took three dogs to Bragg Creek and almost didn't make it when her truck broke down. A park ranger picked up the shivering, jean-clad teen and at the site she was adopted by Eddie and Colin Cooteray, who she later discovered were three-time world champion sled-racers.

"I was at the right place at the right time. They tucked me under their wings and taught me the most important things about racing, including sportsmanship."

Almost 16 years later, Arsenault and her husband, Charles, have 60 dogs, nine sleds and a thriving tour company. Their success is largely based on the romantic appeal of driving a dog sled through the

majestic scenery of the Canadian Rockies for an hour, a half-day or under a full-moon.

NOTHING COMPARES to riding a sled almost level to the ground, whooshing along narrow paths with only the sound of the dogs to interrupt the winter silence. Snowmobiling just does not compare to this elegant mode of transportation.

The only thing that might be better than being a passenger is being the musher. That's a real adrenalin rush, because the balance of the sled and its passengers is in your hands - or feet, as the case may be when dealing with the brakes.

Standing on the runners, throwing your weight into the curve while rounding a corner in the trail is an exhilarating experience. The rush of the wind on your cheeks, the yipping dogs responding - mainly when they trust you - to shouted commands, and the knowledge that a wrong move will tip the sled sure keeps you on your toes.

Today, Arsenault applies her expertise to teaching wanna-be mushers the rudiments. While northern huskies are extremely tough and aggressive, necessary traits to survive the extreme conditions of the arctic, the slighter, southern huskies are friendlier and rely on speed and smarts, making them ideal for working with tourists.

The instructions are straightforward and simple. Especially one thing. "No matter what happens, don't let go of your sled," admonished Arsenault.

When that happens, the dogs take off dragging an empty sled behind them which can slam into their legs once they slow down.

And you certainly don't want to be responsible for any injuries other than your own, particularly when the lead dog is worth \$3,500.

So, pay attention when the chief musher gives a 20-minute lesson on steering and braking, and look at the scenery later.



There's nothing like riding a sled almost level to the ground with only the sound of the dogs to interrupt the winter silence. (Dina O'Meara)

THE SLED is deceptively simple, a molded oak frame covered in a canvas-like material. The runners extend behind the passenger carrier, and that's where

the driver stands. The brakes, which also help steer the sled, are metal pedals located parallel to the inside of each runner; these are stomped on to slow the sled while yelling "Whoa" at the dogs.

Once at a full stop, the ice break - a metal hook which acts as an anchor - is thrown down.

While she explained how easy the ride would be as long as we followed the rules, her daughter and husband John assembled the sleds and got provisions together, all the while talking to the yipping dogs. For the two-passenger, two-musher sled, Arsenault hooked six energetic huskies to the leads, advising the drivers to keep them tangle-free and to watch out for fighting.

"Axel doesn't get along with Maggie, who's in heat, so you have to keep your eye on them," she said.

Armed with the knowledge that the lead dog is worth twice as much as my car, I wondered how Arsenault entrusted her dogs to complete strangers. But, the fact is, she's entrusting us to them.

These intelligent creatures know the trails and how to work them, straining at the leads while responding to the nervous directions of the novice drivers. They know where to go and how far they can get with each musher, too. But they are still hyperactive animals and, if the driver doesn't pay attention, the lead dog will run into the team ahead of him at a stop, resulting in a major tangle of animals.

At one point my co-musher and I whizzed round a corner and fell off, leaving the dogs to spring forward. The two passengers thought the additional speed was great fun until they heard our frantic yells. Then they realized they were whizzing through the Great North with no direction, and the sled could overturn, or worse, smash into the dogs when they finally did stop.

Fortunately for all, one of the passengers had previous experience on a dog sled, reached behind her to grab the ice anchor, threw it down and saved the day.

The sled slammed to a stop, we caught up to it and rather sheepishly gave out excuses - "It's too small for two drivers of our size" - before starting up again.

By the end of the trip, I was covered with bruises but jubilant at having brought the team home.

We were lucky. Inexperience or simple inattentiveness can be deadly when traveling in the mountains. Apart from the cold, there's usually no one around to bail you out of trouble while on isolated trails.

"You dress warm, eat right and respect Mother Nature," said Arsenault of her chosen life, "or she'll kill you."

A hiker's guide sets children on the right trail

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE new edition of *Kids Love Israel, Israel Loves Kids*, the guidebook by Barbara Soffer, has just been published by Kar-Ben Copies.

It is intended for families visiting here, but local residents may learn about facilities, activities and attractions from the book's extensive survey. It also specifies which activities are likely to interest children of specific ages, including teenagers.

THE KFAR Giladi hotel is offering ski packages, including a ski pass, for prices ranging from NIS 310 (NIS 220 for a child) for one night and two days to NIS 640 (NIS 440) for three nights and four days.

Including equipment rental, the price comes to NIS 460 (NIS 340) for two days and NIS 895 (NIS 640) for four days. There is an additional charge of NIS 20 per night on Thursday and Friday, but two free ski lessons are offered for beginners who arrive on Sunday.

NOW IS THE time to visit Antalya for those who appreciate low prices and enjoy off-season quiet. Yosi Tours has a four-night mid-week package with half-board at a hotel in Kamar for \$159. For those who want to go to Istanbul, No-fesh Plus is offering a three-night weekend from \$238, including air fare and hotel with breakfast.

A WEEK'S vacation in Cyprus with two nights aboard a cruise ship is being promoted by Mano Lines. Prices including all meals on board and hotel with breakfast in Cyprus start at \$341 in the Troodos Mountains and \$321 in Limassol.

ISSTA, THE tour company and travel agency specializing in students and young people, has begun to sell foreign currency and

travelers' checks to its clients, announcing that it does not charge a commission and offers more attractive rates than banks. The service is so far only available in the company's main office in Tel Aviv, but it promises that it will soon open similar counters.

A ROUND-trip flight to New York and three nights in a local hotel are available from Bonissa Ltd. for \$649. The offer is valid until the end of March.

DIESENHAUS is offering packages to London with the opportunity to buy theater tickets in advance with no agent's fees. Prices start at \$429 for a three-night stay, \$459 for four nights and \$520 for six nights, including air fare and hotel with breakfast.

FOR FREQUENT luxury flyers, British Airways is offering a free round-trip, business-class flight to New York, with one way by Concorde, to anyone flying to two long-haul non-European destinations by May 15.

Those taking three long-haul flights are to receive two of the free tickets, which may be used between March 1 and August 28.

OMNIWORLD IS offering a round-trip flight on Sabena to Brussels and two nights in an Ibis hotel in Brussels. Antwerp or Bruges, from \$528.

TRAVEL BY Internet is coming to Israel through a company called Net Position, which is currently offering the onetime El Al flight to Japan, leaving on February 15 and returning on February 25, for \$800 round trip. The company, which also has other related deals in Japan, can be accessed via: www.netposition.co.il/japan.

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EILAT AND THE NEGEV

Sold out in October, we're organizing another popular tour to the south. So get in now, for a really great time at a bargain price. Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club's stimulating and informative English speaking off-the-beaten-track 4 day tour of the Negev and Eilat. We'll pick you up in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, and on the way south visit the Air Force Museum at Hatzertim, and Mactesh Ramon (the Ramon Crater). We'll tour the Shoret Canyon, cruise the coral reefs in a glass-bottomed boat, and view Aqaba and Taba, take a jeep tour, yes, a jeep tour of Mt. Yo'ash, Ein Netafim, Nahal Shlomo, Nahal Yehoshafat and Nahal Rehav'am. There'll be two evening lectures and a night tour of Eilat. We'll be staying at the delightful PARADISE HOTELS in Eilat and our tour guide will be David Solomon.

The Dates: Mon., February 26- Thur., February 29 4 days, 3 nights.

The Price: NIS 1045, per person in a double room, half board, air conditioned bus from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, escorts and guides, entrance to all sites, lectures, jeep tour, etc.

Shorashim: POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-666231 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. (ask for Romit or Tami)

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We'll discuss some of the fundamental issues now worrying and in some cases dividing the people. Martin Buber's approach, Gush Emunim, "Trading land for peace," and the ideas of Rabbis Zvi Yehuda Kook, Shlomo Goren and Yehuda Halevy. They will be the subject of lectures and open discussion led by Prof. Paul Mendes-Flohr, Prof. Zeev Harvey, Rabbi Naphtali Rotenberg, Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, Prof. Moshe Idel, Rabbi Pessach Schindler, Yonatan Garb, and Peter Lenard.

The cost of the seminar includes tour bus from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and return, admission to all lectures, use of guest house facilities, twice daily bus to the sulphur baths, half-board per person in a double room, etc. etc.

The dates: Monday, January 29 - Wednesday, January 31
The place: Kibbutz Ein Gedi Guest House
The price: NIS 925.

For reservations and further information:
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Coming to you from somewhere in Israel...

From hot news to cool talk, regional radio is making its mark, Helen Kaye writes

WHEN an Iranian plane made a forced landing on September 19 at Uvda, just north of Eilat, the first in broadcast the news was a brand-new regional radio station at 102.1 FM, the Voice of the Red Sea (VRS).

"We were the first to hear about it, the first to send out a crew and broadcast the news to the rest of Israel and the world," crows VRS program manager Michael Rosolio.

"That day media focus was on Taba, where [then foreign minister] Shimon Peres and [PLO chairman] Yasser Arafat were meeting, and when the plane came down the IDF set up roadblocks and allowed no one through."

The earthquake on November 22 gave the station another scoop and a high recognition factor, because "for most of the following week Eilat's got most of their information from us, and it really helped to get us known in the area."

A poll done in December (and all the stations have either done or are doing one) showed that the station has an 89 percent listener response, with 62% listening regularly and 51% preferring VRS over national broadcasters.

Not bad for a station that started broadcasting only on September 1.

VRS, or Kol Hayam Ha'adom in Hebrew, is one of the seven government-approved, wholly self-supporting, commercial regional radio stations which won their franchises in the first round of tenders.

Moving south to north, the others were Galei Hadarom (Waves of the South) in Beersheba, Jerusalem Radio, Radio Lelo Hafaska or Nonstop Radio in the Tel Aviv area, Radius Broadcasting in the Sharon, Haifa Radio and Radio North in the Galilee.

However, only four met the September broadcast deadline. Competitors that lost the bidding filed suit against the Second Radio and Television Authority, which issued the tenders.

At press time the franchise awarded to Radio North was still under dispute. Waves Radio in Beersheba has just started broadcasting, and Tel Aviv's Nonstop Radio began in mid-October.

Tel Aviv has a sizable English-speaking population, but Nonstop (103 FM) has no English-language programming. Neither does Haifa Radio (107.5 FM).

Sheila Zucker presents Jerusalem Radio's (101 FM) hour-long daily magazine program in English, and on Wednesday Edwin Melman's *Wipeout* caters to computer buffs and the Internet.

Eilat's VRS also has a daily show in English. Being a resort city, its program caters mainly to the hotel population and is broadcast daily between 4 and 6 p.m. Local resident and presenter Dean Carr offers a mix 'n' match of tourist information, newsmotes, music, the weather here and in Europe and some interviews.

But there's only an hour a week in English on Radius (100 FM) in the Sharon, which has a large concentration of English speakers. Tali Bender's magazine program is also a mix of news, a quiz, music and interviews.

Among the music, talk shows, quiz-



Radius Broadcasting in the Sharon is the only regional station broadcasting traffic advisories from a plane. (Jonathan Bloom)

zes and news, each station has a few programs of which it's particularly proud. At Jerusalem Radio, program manager Yeholoma Levy cites sports coverage, Bambi Sheleg's Friday afternoon program on Jewish life and children's call-in shows hosted by TV stars Aharon Perera and Yael Hen.

All the regionals tried to attract top-name stars such as Rivka Michaeli, who hosts an arts magazine program on Radius, or disc-jockey Didi Harari on Nonstop - whose show every day at 3 p.m. boosts the station's listener rating to 29% from its average of 11%-13%.

In Jerusalem, a poll that came out

this week showed that 38% of the area's radio audience listens to the station and 19% tunes in regularly.

Radius general manager David Ben-Bassat is very upbeat about his station. He says "we did considerable market research and planned our programs around the results. The most popular subjects were consumerism, pop music of all kinds and especially the golden oldies."

Ben-Bassat ticks off Radius's advantages: "We're the only regional radio to broadcast our traffic advisory from a plane. We have two unique consumer programs. One is a hot-line with Gide-

on Reicher, and we solve consumers' problems right on the air. The other is a radio marketplace on which we put buyers and sellers in touch with one another."

In addition to Harari, Nonstop's program manager Rafi Rosenfeld picks out two other highly successful community and consumer series. These are shows that, among others, guide the citizen through our labyrinthine bureaucracy and various call-in shows. "because Israelis love talking, especially politics," he says.

Some new night-owl shows are being planned for special audiences, such as

homosexuals, travelers and on the occult.

These will go on the air after 1 a.m. and are proof, says Nonstop general manager Michael Karpin indignantly, that Nonstop is far from floundering, as recently reported in the Hebrew press.

"There have been changes in our line-up and personnel, but we're a young station," he says. "We have growing pains and changes are inevitable. The rumors that we are losing \$250,000 a month and have a \$10 million deficit are simply ludicrous. If anything, we're ahead of schedule and hope to balance our books by June."

Pirate stations: Stealthy operators rule the waves

THERE are more than 40 pirate radio stations nationwide. They flout the law with apparent impunity, and the authorities directly concerned are so busy passing the buck that nothing looks like it's going to change in the foreseeable future.

It's a felony to operate a pirate radio, punishable by three years in jail and/or up to a NIS 2.28 million fine, "but the courts fine them NIS 300 or so, so they have no incentive to stop," says David Ben-Bassat of Radio Radius. "We've complained some six or seven times [since September] but nothing gets done."

The seven new regional radio stations have each paid the Second Radio and Television Authority NIS 40,000 for their frequency and will pay around NIS 350,000 annually in royalties. Pirates pay no fees or royalties and grab the airwaves.

Radio Gal, broadcasting from the coastal plain on 101.1 FM, "sits right on

top of our frequency," says Radio Jerusalem's Yeholoma Levy, and Channel 2000 on 102.7 FM interferes with the legal Nonstop Radio.

Channel 2000 takes the butzpa prize. The police have raided the station, confiscated equipment, and arrested the personnel seven times in the last three years. Each time the station goes right back on the air within days.

Between 1993 and 1995 the police received 71 complaints against the pirates from all over the country and made 138 responses, including 61 raids. Here's a typical example.

On November 28, a Tel Avivian complained to the Communications Ministry about interference in his radio reception. A ministry airwave inspection unit identified the source as Radio Light, a pirate radio station.

On January 1, the police confiscated the several thousand dollars worth of equipment they found there in a raid. They arrested those they found, ques-

tioned them, released them on their own recognizance and forwarded the file to the District Attorney's Office.

And that's about as far as it will probably get. The case against Channel 2000 (at least three separate counts), for instance, is still pending. According to Tel Aviv Police, the station's lawyers have managed to stall proceedings.

As for acting vigorously, it's worth quoting from the reply received from Police Headquarters in Jerusalem: "There is no countrywide criminal activity, and the police responds directly to each complaint and according to its own priorities."

The police say they are only the operative arm and can do nothing unless they're called in to assist the proper authorities to enforce the law, identifying those authorities as the Communications Ministry and Bezek. The Bezek spokesman says "we have nothing to do with enforcing the law. In the past, the Communications Ministry has called on

us to help them locate the pirate radios, because we have the necessary equipment."

Menahem Ohry, legal adviser to the Communications Ministry, is very frustrated: "Judges don't regard pirate radio stations as that serious," he says. "About seven months ago we had a round-table talk with Ministers [Shimon Peres and Moshe Shahal, lawyers] and the police in an effort to get things moving. Nothing came of it: I even wrote to the Tax Authority. That's the way they got Al Capone in America, but I never got a reply from them."

In November, Nonstop Radio legal counsel Maya Cook sent a two-page letter complaining about the pirate radio stations to Aloni, the Second Radio and TV Authority; Minister Shimon Peres; and Attorney General Michael Bea-Yair. Only Aloni's office has so far replied.

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GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

AT A joint press conference with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, US Vice President Al Gore said he had to return to Washington for discussions on the federal budget. By January 26, he said, the US government would have no money. "Are you in need of foreign aid?" asked Peres, his face lighting up in a broad grin. Both the media and Gore cracked up.

THE ISRAELI Museum, rather than the King David Hotel, was the scene of a cocktail reception, concert and dinner hosted by Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok. An added treat for those attending was the opportunity to view works by Impressionist and post-Impressionist artists, as well as those of Dutch and Flemish old masters. Stringent security precautions extended even to law enforcement officials. Guests included KLM head Ted Silverman and his wife Dina, Cinematheque founder and director Lia Van Leer, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel, women's rights activist Alice Shalvi and numerous other dignitaries.

BACK IN her home in Ramallah following an eight-year exile is Raymonda Tawil, the mother-in-law of Yasser Arafat. Among those on hand to greet the journalist, who was the co-owner of the east Jerusalem-based Palestine Press Service, was Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi, who could become an MK in the next elections. But for the moment, both Tawil and Tibi are much more interested in the outcome of tomorrow's Palestinian polls.

THE BRITISH Embassy was inundated with calls following a *Ma'ariv* report that Princess Di would be coming to Israel in the summer to attend a "peace happening." The report, which claimed the princess had agreed in principle to be present, may have been premature. "The Princess of Wales's household is unaware of any proposal for the

founder and director Lia Van Leer, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel, women's rights activist Alice Shalvi and numerous other dignitaries.

Princess of Wales to visit Israel," said an embassy spokesman. That doesn't necessarily mean she isn't coming, he acknowledged. It just means that her household doesn't know that she's been invited. One wonders if she'll come before or after the divorce, and whether her current companion, a Jewish real-estate tycoon of Iraqi extraction, will accompany her.

LECTURING UNDER the auspices of the British Council, Alan Rosenthal, filmmaker, script writer and staff member at the Hebrew University's School for Communications, commented on the difference between French and British movies. "The French

have sex and the British have hot water bottles," he observed.

YOU CAN'T pick your relatives, but you can pick your friends and neighbors. Some of the neighbors of Leah Rabin who might have previously cherished the snob value of living close to the prime minister are now complaining that the security measures adopted for political leaders and other dignitaries who call on Rabin make life impossible. Not only are they unable to drive their cars, but if they happen to be outside when people such as US Vice President Al Gore call on Rabin they can't even cross the road to their own homes.

AFTER TAKING insufficient precautions when prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, Prime Minister Shimon Peres's bodyguards have become so obsessive about his safety, that organizations inviting Peres to their events have to be prepared for chaos and much disgruntlement. Peres made a 10-minute appearance at the opening of the 21st World WIZO conference. Hundreds of guests from abroad attending the function stood in line for over an hour while each person entering the Mann Auditorium submitted to a security check. Many lost patience and left, saying they weren't going to wait any longer. Inside the hall, bodyguards were stationed along the aisles and by the stage, adding an almost threatening note to an otherwise festive occasion.

IT WAS in the cards that Peres would talk about peace at the WIZO conference, and in this context, he referred to the previous week's visit by Jordan's King Hussein. Referring to the monarch's popularity in Israel, Peres said "If Hussein would run here for elections, God knows who would come out first."

ALIYA via Aqaba may sound far-fetched, but it may just turn out to be true. Israeli-born Adir Ashkelon, who specializes in developing new technologies for cutting diamonds and precious stones, is in the process of closing a deal with Talba, a major Saudi Arabian gemstone company to open a joint venture in Aqaba. If everything goes according to plan, says Ashkelon, who left here in 1956 and now resides in New York, "I'll come back to live in Israel, because Aqaba is not that far away."

THE JERUSALEM English Speaking Theater's extra-by-demand performances of *All in the Timing* concluded with an additional slice of drama. Just as the actors were taking their bows, co-director Kelly Hartog announced the engagement of stage manager Lynn Semmeschels from Sydney to Steven Langness from Cape Town. The couple knew each other as teenagers at B'nai B'rith in Cape Town but didn't meet up again until 15 years later, when they bumped into each other at The Event at the Wingate Institute. Romance blossomed, and a wedding is on the way. Finding an apartment won't be a problem. The groom-to-be works for Anglo-Saxon Realty in Ra'anana.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1996

15

Back to Beirut

ON THE AGENDA
AMOTZ ASA-EL

IT'S been over a decade since we Israelis visited, albeit uninvited, the angry streets of war-ravaged Beirut. Since then, a lot has since then happened on both sides of the border, most recently a much-heralded, if cumbersome, diplomatic tango between Jerusalem and Damascus. Yet even so, few here pay thought to the energetic economic restoration currently under way in Beirut, and to the light it sheds on the new Middle East.

Understandably, with a summit between Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Syrian President Hafez Assad possibly in the offing and an Arafat inauguration speech scheduled for Sunday, the re-opening of the Beirut stock exchange the following Monday may seem like a non-event. But it isn't. In fact, it is the tip of an investment iceberg which enigmatically contrasts the economic introversion of Lebanon's Syrian masters, and quietly challenges Tel Aviv's pretensions to becoming this region's financial capital.

From a quick tour through a host of multimillion-dollar construction sites across greater Beirut emerges the sketch of a glittery, sky-scraping city-scape by the end of the decade, Beirut is bustling again, and the scent of its famous Levantine mixture of financial energy, cultural diversity, and regional centrality is finding its way to the right European nostrils.

The airport, until recently a favorite target for artillery salvos, has become the focus of a \$400 million renovation project, sponsored by giants like the European Investment Bank and Germany's Hochtief. The port is being redesigned by Belgian engineering contractor Haecon.

Renovations of the old stadium, university, and casino, as well as a brand new, ultra-modern, \$250m. conference center, will join once landmark hotels Holiday Inn, Saint George, and

Phoenicia, which are restoring their lost grandeur, not far from a 40-story, \$80m., twin tower project. Solidere, the publicly traded company overseeing the restoration of the business district, is now worth nearly \$2 billion.

All this is taking place under the auspices of Syrian occupiers who don't allow even a fraction of this hyperactivity at home, where capital markets are nonexistent and foreign investors are hassled by an entrenched bureaucracy, which insists on licensing even fax and modem lines. In fact, Assad's economic stiffness has already led half a million jobless Syrians to flock - where else - to Lebanon.

This discrepancy between political dominance and economic inferiority stems from Assad's reluctance to launch Chinese-style, economically focused reforms at home. But it also reflects a willingness to turn Lebanon into what Hong Kong has for decades been for Communist China: a political poodle and a financial tiger, a military non-entity which functions as a capitalist engine for a heavily centralized economy.

Naturally, a still half-demolished and visibly occupied Beirut has a long way to go before it can threaten Tel Aviv's potential pre-eminence in a financially integrated Middle East. Yet considering Beirut's far more lenient regulatory landscape (including taxes as low as 10 percent and uninhibited foreign currency traffic), its cosmopolitan business community and the Phoenician heritage of far-flung international trade, Beirut might ultimately steal Tel Aviv's show.

Even so - and in spite of its dubious Syrian context - Israelis can only welcome Beirut's rapidly re-emerging economic stature. It will inject calcium into Lebanon's broken bones, and adrenaline into competition-wary Israeli regulators.

Sivan: Foreign ownership of Hapoalim is okay

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim CEO Amiram Sivan has no objections to qualified foreign investors owning the bank, a Bank Hapoalim spokesman said yesterday, denying media reports that Sivan thought a bank the size of Hapoalim should not be foreign owned.

A Bank Hapoalim spokesman said part of Sivan's speech to the Israel Managers Institute on Wednesday had been misquoted and taken out of context. She said most of the Sivan's lecture focused on the Brodet Committee's recommendations and Sivan's interpretation of the arguments underpinning them.

According to Sivan, the committee members' fears of foreign investors owning such a large bank encouraged them to place harsh restrictions on the bank, in the form of a law which will determine its banking activity.

In this context, Sivan said "It may be slightly dangerous to

transfer ownership of the bank to foreign investors. But maybe the basic mistake was that they did not consider the possibility that a large bank like Bank Hapoalim, should actually be under public ownership."

Sivan, in his speech, attacked the Brodet Committee's recommendations, which propose to divest Hapoalim of all its holdings either in Koor Industries or in Clal Israel, and to limit all banks' non-financial holdings to a maximum of 20%. He conceded, however, that the proposals would probably be anchored in legislation within a month or two, and said Hapoalim would obey the law.

"I promise Bank Hapoalim will live with the new laws like with every state law and the bank will continue to fulfill its position in the economy," said Sivan.

Sivan said the proposals seem to demonstrate that there is an excessive display of power in the public sector and not in the private sector, as claimed in the report.

"Is it a good process for democracy, that the authorities display such power?" asked Sivan.

Sivan said the Brodet report was not backed by a serious economic survey examining the economic influence of market concentration. According to Sivan, there is no other place in the world where the issue of market concentration is dealt with by legislation. He said legislation is only used to deal with monopolies and cartels.

Sivan also rejected the Brodet report's assumption that Bank Hapoalim controls 8.2% of the Gross Domestic Product. He stressed that it does not have such a high influence on the economy.

WORLD BRIEFS

L'Oreal raises bid for Maybelline: France's L'Oreal said yesterday it raised its bid to buy Maybelline to \$41 a share, a day after a rival bidder, Joh A. Benckiser of Germany, had offered \$37 a share. Maybelline, one of America's leading cosmetics makers, agreed in December in a \$660 million takeover by L'Oreal. The price, equal to \$36.75 a share, includes the assumption of about \$150m. in debt. **Reuter**

Fokker recognizes low chances of survival: Beleaguered Dutch planemaker Fokker NV said yesterday it had not given up hope, but recognized its chances of survival were fading. "People often say I'm a born optimist. I still haven't given up hope that we can reach a solution, but I can see that the chances are getting smaller," Fokker Chairman Ben van Schaik said yesterday. **Reuter**

GE earnings up 11%: General Electric yesterday said earnings jumped 11 percent in the fourth quarter, posting profits for the full year to record levels. GE earned \$1.87 billion, or \$1.12 per share, from ongoing operations in the quarter, compared with \$1.69, or 99 cents a share, in the 1994 period. **Reuter**

Kodak profits climb: Eastman Kodak yesterday reported higher sales and profits for the fourth quarter and full year, although its earnings for the quarter were well below Wall Street's expectations. The photography giant said its fourth-quarter net income climbed to \$275m., or 80 cents a share, from \$18m., or 5 cents a share, in 1994, when it took a \$350 million charge for discontinued operations. **Reuter**

IBM profits surge to \$1.7b. in 4th q'tr

NEW YORK (Reuter) - International Business Machines Corp., driven by 25 percent growth in services revenues, surprised all but its most optimistic fans on Wall Street yesterday with news that it earned \$1.7 billion in the fourth quarter, up from \$1.2b. a year earlier.

The profits surge came on revenue of \$21.9b., which climbed from \$19.9b. in the same period of 1994.

IBM said the results, which were equal to \$3.09 a share and up from \$2.06 a share a year ago, included special charges of \$663 million related to staff cuts and asset reductions.

They also included a one-time gain of \$175m. related to the 1994 sale of IBM's Federal Systems Company.

IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Louis V. Gerstner noted

it was the 12th consecutive quarter that service revenues had grown by more than 20%.

"In the fourth quarter, the breadth of our product and geographic portfolio once again paid off," he said. "Most important, our quarterly and full-year results indicate that our fundamental strategies are working."

IBM's hardware business rebounded from the product shortfalls of the third quarter, and sales of personal computers and servers - computers that are at the center of computer networks - were strong.

Without the one-time items, IBM earned \$2.0b., or \$3.66 a share, the company said, blowing past the Wall Street consensus estimate of \$3.45 a share.

In pre-opening trading, the company's shares jumped \$3.125 to \$90.25 a share.

UK, France cut rates

LONDON (Reuter) - The Bank of England said it set its minimum lending rate at 6.25 percent, down from 6.50% previously.

The Bank of France also said yesterday that it was cutting its leading interest rates in a move that economists hoped would stimulate a slowing French economy. The bank lowered the intervention rate, which sets the floor on money market rates, to 4.20%, from 4.45%, and cut the ceiling five-to-10 rate to 5.60%, from 5.85%.

The British move is a clear signal to the market that the Bank seeks a quarter fall in British base lending rates to 6.25%, and a move from the clearing banks is expected imminently, dealers said.

The rate cut followed the release of inflation data showing retail prices rose 0.6% in December, slightly higher than expected.

But Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said there was further evidence that inflation was easing. Although the economy was growing, it was not in danger of overheating, the finance minister said in a statement.

Share prices immediately

soared 25 points after the cut, to a record high of 3,729 on the FTSE 100 index.

The last move on official interest rates was a quarter point cut on December 13.

The cut in France was announced by the independent central bank after a meeting of its monetary policy council.

It was the first French official rate cut of the new year and the third time it has cut the intervention rate, which sets the floor for money market rates, since the beginning of December. It cut its five-to-10 day lending rate on December 21.

The government is counting on lower interest rates to help breathe life into the economy, hit by a slowdown in growth which has thrown into doubt France's ability to cut public deficits in preparation for European monetary union.

Germany's Bundesbank, however, said yesterday that its council left the German discount and Lombard rates unchanged after today's regular meeting, in line with economists' expectations.

The German discount rate remains at 3% and the Lombard emergency financing rate at 5%.



British entrepreneur Richard Branson, in a traditional desert outfit, sits on a camel near Marrakech, Morocco on Wednesday. Branson plans to do a round-the-world trip in the Virgin Global Challenger balloon which will be launched from a Moroccan airbase. (Reuter)

Republican panel backs 'flat tax' for all

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - A Republican-appointed commission has called for a complete repeal of the US income tax system and its replacement by a "flat tax,"

setting a single rate for everyone. Cerebrally dumping a two-foot high stack of federal tax forms in the trash, former representative Jack Kemp, head of the commis-

sion, called on Wednesday for a complete replacement of the current system with its complex deductions and tax rates ranging from 15 percent to nearly 40%.

"The present system is beyond repair - it is impossibly complex, outrageously expensive, overly intrusive, economically destructive, and manifestly unfair," Kemp said.

The Senate Finance Committee announced hearings on the issue would start January 31. House Ways and Means Committee chairman Bill Archer, although he favors a consumption tax, promised wide-ranging hearings on tax reform would start shortly.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said Wednesday he would have no problem with a flat tax, so long as it was equitable and did not increase the deficit.

The 14-member panel said that the Internal Revenue Service code should be "repealed in its entirety" and replaced with a flat tax. It did not specify the rate.

In the 24-page report, the panel recommended Social Security payroll taxes be fully deductible for individuals as they are now for businesses. It called for an end to what it called "bias" against savings and investment by letting individuals deduct their savings or exclude the returns on the savings from their taxable income.

At a separate news conference after the Republican plan was unveiled, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat, criticized the proposal as a handout to the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

ON WEDNESDAY - MONEY DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.125	0.125	0.250

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CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		Rep. Rate*
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4581	3.5525	3.5259
German mark	3.0945	3.1445	3.1210
French franc	2.1059	2.1389	2.1258
Japanese yen (100)	4.7121	4.7882	4.7581
Australian dollar	0.8102	0.8282	0.8211
Swiss franc	2.9403	2.9678	2.9546
British pound	1.6793	1.7103	1.6957
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6096	2.6517	2.6299
Italian lire (1000)	0.4627	0.4702	0.4692
Canadian dollar	0.4605	0.4684	0.4668
Danish krone	0.5444	0.5532	0.5490
Finland mark	0.6218	0.7023	0.6721
Norwegian krone	2.2575	2.3041	2.2844
Portuguese escudo (100)	0.5444	0.5532	0.5490
South African rand	0.8487	0.8624	0.8561
Belgian franc (10)	1.0548	1.0614	1.0591
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8950	3.0440	2.9514
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Egyptian pound	—	—	0.58
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Rabinovich: Possibility of early elections won't have bearing on talks with Syria

THE possibility of early elections will have no effect on Israel's negotiations with Syria that resume next week, Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich said yesterday.

Israel and Syria have agreed in recent talks in Maryland that a treaty would result in a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, Rabinovich told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The two sides have also "come closer to [the issue of] the quality of peace," Rabinovich said, but

refused to elaborate.

"For the next few weeks, we will negotiate as if there is no early election. Speculation will abound for some time, but the decision [on elections] does not have to be taken for some time.

"There is enough time for us and the Syrians negotiating at Wye and during the secretary's visit without any relationship to domestic politics [or] elections," Rabinovich said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher is planning to visit

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

the region following the upcoming round of talks.

Israel has not raised the possibility of early elections during the peace talks, and does not intend to do so, because it believes that the efforts of foreign visitors to Damascus to influence Syrian President Hafez Assad on the issue have been "counterproductive," he said.

"We don't have that degree of

intimacy between us [and the Syrian negotiators]. My professional calculation would be not to raise domestic issues in relation to the Syrians, because I don't feel certain with regard to their calculus and their reading of our politics, and I am afraid of the same counterproductive effect.

"For the time being, we can negotiate full-steam ahead without talking or thinking about the elections."

The talks will resume Wednesday at Wye River with the partici-

participation of senior US, Israeli and Syrian military officials. But water and economics experts will not participate, although such issues will remain on the table and be "discussed conceptually," Rabinovich said.

Rabinovich also reiterated that Israel is demanding a warmer peace than what it has obtained from Egypt under the Camp David Accords.

"What was good and sufficient in 1979, in 1996 will be less than satisfactory," he said.

Court rejects Cytryn's petition

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected administrative detainee Shmuel Cytryn's petition for release from detention, saying classified evidence had convinced it there were strong security reasons for holding him.

The Kiryat Arba resident was put in detention for three months on December 3, but a military judge later reduced the order, so he is due for release on February 9.

Cytryn's attorney, Natfali Werzberger, had argued that Cytryn was essentially being imprisoned for his opinions, which is unacceptable in a democratic society. The unclassified evidence against him consisted of the fact that he was a former member of Kach and the Jewish Defense League; that he has persisted in extremist statements despite having had administrative orders issued against him in the past, including statements in support of the Hebron massacre; and that he was indicted for illegal possession of ammunition - including 14 full cartridges for three different types of submachine guns - in the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court in November (the case is still pending).

And while much of the evidence was classified, Supreme Court President Abaron Barak said during the hearing that it boiled down to the fact that Cytryn "has an extremist worldview and makes extremist statements, and, in the estimation of the General Security Service, is likely to slide with relative ease into acts which endanger the peace."

In their verdict, however, Justices Barak, Mishael Cheshin and Tova Strasberg-Cohen insisted that Cytryn was not being detained for his views, but because of an "almost certain" danger that he would act so as to endanger the security of the region. This danger, they said, is reflected by past acts of violence against Arabs by Cytryn, as detailed in the classified evidence, and is especially great because of the army's redeployment and the upcoming Palestinian Authority elections.

Barak concluded his verdict by stating: "Our starting point is that the administrative detainee must be presumed innocent. He has not been tried, and has certainly not been convicted."

He did not explain why it should be permissible to jail people who are considered innocent.

(Continued from Page 1)

membership in the Mapam component of Meretz and to campaign for Meretz in the upcoming elections.

Tzaban, Mapam's leader, is seen as paving the way for MK Haim Oron to assume the Mapam leadership. Tzaban said he had decided to retire from politics two years ago, despite the attempt by close associates to dissuade him. He cited "personal reasons," and would not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Knesset Finance Committee chairman MK Gedalya Gal (Labor) is the latest MK rumored to be leaving politics. This follows the planned retirements announced Wednesday by

PRE-ELECTION

Meretz leader and Communications and Science Minister Shulamit Aloni, Tzaban and Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar (Labor).

Tzaban said he hoped Aloni would not run on a ticket of her own against Meretz. "Shula has so much of an opposition mentality and the mind-set of a protest movement leader, that she found it hard to adjust to the status of a partner in government," he said.

The leak of Gal's intention to not run again came as a surprise to many colleagues, who said they had seen no indication of the move. Finance Minister Avraham Sobotnik is trying to persuade

Gal to stay on.

Gal, known to be a Labor hawk, refused to comment on the reports.

"I'll say what I have to say at the end of the month. Until then, everything else is speculation," he said.

He would not say whether he had held talks with The Third Way, the centrist movement formed by members of a group initiated by Gal, that met at first in Gal's Kfar Vitkin home.

In recent Labor faction meetings, Gal has often been the only MK to question Peres and has complained the party's MKs have been kept in the dark about political and diplomatic developments.

POLLS
(Continued from Page 1)

motivated by the assassination of the Hamas's Ythye Ayyash and recent arrests by Palestinian Police of activists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. One was arrested in Ramallah for sticking up posters calling for a boycott of the elections. Three others were arrested on suspicion of shooting an Israeli in Bethlehem this week.

Neither Hamas nor the PFLP have clearly called for a boycott. Hamas issued a pro-boycott leaflet only to have it countermanded by its leaders.

One of the last remaining issues of supervision was resolved yesterday when Palestinians agreed that in Hebron, where the IDF is still present, only unarmed and unarmed Palestinian inspectors will patrol the 68 polling stations while IDF troops stay away. In Jerusalem there will also be inspectors, but Israeli police will be in charge of security.

On Levy contributed to this report.

Yassin to make media appearance

ON LEVY

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres has agreed to permit a media appearance by imprisoned Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in response to an appeal by the family of murdered soldier Ilan Sa'adon.

The family met with Peres yesterday and urged him to allow the sheikh to appear, in the hope this would encourage Hamas to return Sa'adon's body.

"For seven whole years we've been waiting and all along they've made us promises that they haven't fulfilled," Sa'adon's sister, Mazal Huta, said after the meeting.

She revealed that the family also asked Peres to meet with Yassin and with imprisoned Izzadine Kassam leader Mohammed Sharatha, who was directly involved with her brother's 1989 kidnapping and murder.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital fires to be investigated
Kupat Holim Clalit's management and fire officials will investigate the reason for the series of fires that have broken out at the health fund's Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava over the past few weeks. Hospital officials said the three fires caused some damage to property but not to patients. *Judy Siegel*

25 more Chernobyl children arrive
Twenty-five more children from the Chernobyl region arrived here early yesterday morning, as part of Habad's Children of Chernobyl project. It was the 21st such flight brought here by Habad, and was sponsored by the Argentine Jewish Community. "As we approach the tenth anniversary of Chernobyl, the urgency to evacuate these children is becoming stronger," said Yossie Raichik, director of the project. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Rabin stamp proceeds to museum
Two million shekels of the proceeds from sales of the Yitzhak Rabin stamp and first-day covers will be donated toward the establishment of the national stamp and mail museum being built at Tel Aviv's Ha'aretz Museum.

The Postal Authority will invest another NIS 2 million of other funds in the project. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni reached this agreement with Postal Authority director-general Ran Levin yesterday. The stamp was issued on the *Shoshim* after the late prime minister's death. *Judy Siegel*

Health Ministry probes refusal of Bikur Holim to accept emergency case

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry yesterday expressed its dismay over an incident in which Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital allegedly refused to accept a critically ill patient who arrived at its emergency room on Tuesday night.

Hospital spokesman Alex Farkash maintained that the patient had arrived dead, thus the hospital - which was occupied way beyond capacity - had no reason to examine him.

The man collapsed with a heart attack in the center of the city and was picked up by a Magen David Adom mobile intensive care unit (MICU). The paramedic called the hospital in advance of arrival, saying they were resuscitating the patient.

The hospital, however, advised the MICU to go to Shaare Zedek Hospital, several kilometers away, because it was on duty that night.

According to Farkash, the MICU arrived at Bikur Holim anyway. A nurse and other staffers went outside to see the patient and saw he was not connected to a respirator and that no treatment was being given him.

The nurse determined that the patient was dead on arrival, and there was no reason to take him," Farkash said. "We are very sorry the man died, but the MICU team shouldn't have brought him when we said we couldn't handle him. They wasted precious time," the spokesman continued.

No comment was available from MDA.

Farkash added that the hospital's intensive care units, at that moment, were filled to 160 percent of capacity.

"The doctor who would have had to deal with the case was working on a patient in life-and-death circumstances. Other units were treating a child in convulsions, a patient who was bleeding after a catheterization, and so on. We just couldn't handle anyone else. I am sure that when the ministry hears our side of the story, they will close the case."

Although Bikur Holim was not on duty for treating heart attack victims, said the ministry, the duty rotation refers only to hospitalization and not to the running of emergency rooms.

SITUATIONS VACANT ADVERTISEMENTS
Equal Opportunity in Employment Law, 1988

The law forbids discrimination in the advertising and filling of job vacancies, on grounds of sex, or marital or parental status, except where this is dictated by the nature of the work.

All job advertisements in The Jerusalem Post should be regarded as complying with the provisions of the law.

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JERUSALEM CORRIDOR EMERGENCY APPEAL

Support The Jerusalem Post Funds Emergency Appeal to restore the communities and forests of the Jerusalem corridor. The appeal will run until Tu B'Shvat, February 5, 1996.

THE PROBLEM:

The fire, last summer, the worst in the country's history, devastated the Jerusalem Corridor, destroyed dozens of homes, community properties and businesses, killed hundreds of animals, domestic and wild, injured nearly fifty people, and ravaged thousands of dunams of prime forest between Sha'ar Hagai and Neve Ilan.

Some 2 million trees were destroyed, and the forests - some planted even before the founding of the State - will take decades to return to their former glory.



ISRAEL SUN

THE SOLUTION:

We appeal to our readers and friends around the world to rush donations as quickly as possible, so that they can be used in the great rebuilding plans now being implemented for this area. The management of The Jerusalem Post Funds is allocating monies to help Shoresh and Neve Ilan rebuild community projects but millions of shekels are needed to clear the devastated areas, rebuild and repair the picnic and leisure sites, and plant trees. We appeal for your support.

Send checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds/Emergency Appeal, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Or phone, or mail a VISA credit card donation to Fax. 02-241212. More information from Beverlee Black, 02-233986.

No. 4 Pierce ousted from Open

MELBOURNE (AP) - With little control of her shots or her footwork, this was not the same Mary Pierce who won last year's Australian Open without losing a set.

"I'm shocked," her coach said after the No. 4 seed made an early exit with a 6-4, 6-4 second-round loss today to Elena Likhovtseva of Russia, ranked No. 51.

"This is like a cold shower," her trainer said.

"I can just say basically that I had a really bad day," said Pierce, who now will drop out of the top 10 in the world.

Men's No. 1 seed Pete Sampras and No. 4 Boris Becker, along with women's No. 2 Conchita Martinez of Spain, avoided the upset trend that took away two of the top five women seeds.

Sampras rebounded from a slow start to beat fellow American Michael Joyce 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, ending it with his 20th ace.

In the fourth set, he made his most spectacular shot of the day, a running forehand from off the court that zipped just outside the net post, about two feet off the ground, and landed just inside the sideline.

Becker, master of the five-set match, played his second in as many rounds here, coming from two sets down for a 4-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Sweden's Thomas Johansson.

He also had 20 aces, as did No. 10 Goran Ivanisevic in a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Canadian qualifier Sebastien Lareau.

Now with a 30-13 record in five-setters, the German has won more of them than any active player on the tour. He also has played more except for Stefan Edberg, who is 26-19 after winning one and losing one here.

With spectator frenzy matching the levels of a Sweden-Germany Davis Cup match, Becker at times threw kisses or spat toward his backers.

The match turned with Becker trailing 0-40 on his serve at 2-2 in the third set. He hit a backhand volley that Johansson furiously complained was wide. Then he won 13 of the next 15 points.

Johansson, a 20-year-old playing in his third Grand Slam tournament, said bad calls had run about 50-50 in the match, but the timing of that particular call was unlucky for him.

Martinez cruised past Florencia Labat of Argentina 6-2, 6-4.

The other high women's seed to exit was No. 5 Kimiko Date, knocked out by Mana Endo, who has played countless matches with her Japanese compatriot, but has only won twice. Endo triumphed 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 as Date also ran into error trouble - 61



OUT OF ACTION - Mary Pierce lost a shocker yesterday to Elena Likhovtseva of Russia. (AP)

unforced errors, compared with Pierce's 35.

No. 8 Anke Huber of Germany beat Asa Carlsson of Sweden 6-1, 6-2; American Lindsay Davenport, No. 10, beat Australian Renae Stubbs 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; No. 11 Brenda Schultz-McCarthy beat Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; and No. 16 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa beat Sabine Hack of Germany 6-1, 6-1.

In men's matches, American MaliVai Washington, ranked No. 21, ousted 12th seed Arnaud Boetsch of France 6-4, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia beat Alex Corretja of Spain 6-1, 6-2, 6-3; No. 7 Thomas Enqvist of Sweden beat Adrian Panu of Romania 6-4, 6-4, 6-1; and unseeded Aussie favorite Mark Philippoussis beat Eyal Ran 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Ran falls in 2nd round

ISRAEL'S representation at the Australian Open came to an end yesterday with Eyal Ran's loss to home player Mark Philippoussis. The Israeli No. 1 put up a brave fight and managed to win the first set against the tall, hard-serving Australian but he faded towards the end of the second set and eventually lost 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Ran, ranked 160 in the world entered the tournament as a lucky loser from the qualifying tournament following Marc Rosset's withdrawal with a hand injury. But the Israeli belied his underdog status as he traded shot for shot in a mainly baseline duel with Philippoussis, 30 in the ATP Rankings.

The result might have been different had Ran held onto his serve at 4-4 in the second set, but he struggled from that point onwards and Philippoussis took control of the match which was played in the 15,000-capacity center court at Flinders Park.

Ran's efforts to regain control of the match against the tall, hard hitting Australian came to naught as the match progressed and after two hours, 20 minutes it was the latter player who secured a third round meeting with world No. 1 and top seed, Pete Sampras.

Israel's other representative, Anna Smashnova, was ousted from the women's singles Wednesday. Ori Lewis

Maccabi overpowers Benfica in Lisbon

Chambers scores 30 points as Tel Aviv draws into tie for last quarter-final spot

TOM Chambers scored a personal European-high 30 points to lead Maccabi Tel Aviv over a stubborn Benfica Lisbon 94-82 in the European Club Championships final pool last night.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak and evened Maccabi's record at 5-5, lifting the club into a tie for the fourth and final quarter-final spot from Group B.

Chambers exploited the weak Benfica club, which fell to 1-9, to post his overall best game of the season and give Maccabi its first road victory after four defeats.

Chambers shot 75 percent (12-16) from the field, grabbed nine rebounds, dished out four assists and played his best defense of the season.

But the victory also belonged to Maccabi's reserves, who rose to the occasion time and again during the evening.

Moti Daniel was a spark off the bench, scoring a season-high 14 points, including 10 in the first half after an ineffective Doron Jamchee went to the bench early with his third foul.

Brad Leaf filled in for a subpar Oded Katash, chipping in 11 points and providing leadership and hustle at both ends of the floor.

BRIAN FREEMAN

Tomer Steinbauer also came off the bench to contribute a needed defensive presence when Maccabi slacked off in the second half, particularly when Nadav Henefeld fouled out of the game with 10 minutes remaining.

In the first half, Chambers scored 19 points, on 9-11 shooting from the field.

He also grabbed six rebounds in the half and had three assists, at one point contributing directly to 19 straight Maccabi points during a Tel Aviv run that erased an early 5-0 deficit into a 35-21 advantage seven minutes from the break.

Maccabi, whose defensive intensity along with some Benfica carelessness created 12 Lisbon turnovers in the half, went into the locker room with a 49-39 lead - despite six three-pointers by Benfica.

But Benfica came out after the break unwilling to throw in the towel on its home court.

The Portuguese narrowed the lead immediately and stayed within striking distance the entire half, and with 13 minutes remaining cut the lead to 59-58.

But Leaf came off the bench again to drill a three-pointer and

sink two free throws to rebuild the lead.

Lishon made one last gasp when Carlos Lisboa connected on his fifth three-pointer of the night (on 16 attempts) to make the score 84-78 with 3:25 left in the game.

But Steinbauer made a key shot on an assist from Radisav Curcic and then stole the ball on the next play to seal the victory.

For Maccabi, Chambers had 30 points, Curcic 15, Daniel 14, Leaf 11 and Jameher 9.

Benfica was led by Lisboa with 23 points, while Jean Jaques had 19, Mikel Nahar 16 and Sergio Ramos 13.

In other Group B results, visiting Panathinaikos defeated Cibona Zagreb 93-82, Barcelona beat hosts Real Madrid 94-82 and Pau-Orthez outlasted visiting Buekler Bologna 74-69 in overtime.

Next week, Maccabi travels to Barcelona, while Benicia visits Bologna, Cibona hosts Real Madrid and Panathinaikos hosts Pau-Orthez.

Group B			
	W	L	Pts.
1. Barcelona	7	0	17
2. Panathinaikos	6	1	16
3. Real Madrid	5	2	15
4. Cibona Zagreb	5	2	15
5. Pau-Orthez	5	2	15
6. Maccabi Tel Aviv	5	2	15
7. Buekler Bologna	4	3	14
8. Benfica Lisbon	1	9	11

UConn win-streak still strong at 14

HARTFORD (AP) - Kirk King finally missed and Travis Knight nearly didn't for No. 5 Connecticut.

King made his 22nd straight shot - three short of the NCAA record - before a miss Wednesday night, and the Huskies ran away early for an 88-73 win over St. John's.

King made his first three shots all dunks, for the Huskies' until missing an eight-foot pullup jumper with six minutes left in the first half. The record of 25 in a row was set by Ray Voelkel of American University in 1978.

"It's the first time I felt good missing a shot," said King, who started his streak with nine straight field goals against Villanova on January 9 and followed in with 10 shots in a row against Providence last Saturday.

Knight emerged from a scoring slump with a career-high 22 points for Connecticut. He hit his first seven shots and then only missed once the rest of the way as

the Huskies (15-1, 7-0 Big East) heat St. John's for the sixth straight time and extended their winning streak to 14 games.

"The re-emergence of Travis Knight makes a big, big difference in our game," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "Kirk kind of dropped off tonight, and Travis goes 10-for-11. When they get the ball in spots they are hitting plays very well."

Knight followed up on King's miss, tipping in the ball as it bounced up a few times from the rim and appeared as if it had a chance to fall through the net on its own.

Knight, who had 16 total points in the previous four games, including a scoreless night against Villanova, was a threat from everywhere, hitting at least three of his baskets from beyond 15 feet. He also grabbed 14 rebounds.

Ray Allen finished with 26 points and Doron Sheffer added 18 for Connecticut, which took control early and then stayed in

command the entire game, using several rotations to wear down St. John's and get both their transition and half-court game clicking.

"Between Sheffer and Allen ... both shot the ball like pros," Mahoney said. "Who's got a better backcourt than that?"

CONNECTICUT 88, ST. JOHN'S 73
ST. JOHN'S (7-6): ...
Baird 3-0 0-0 6, Maggiano 2-4 0-0 4,
Patterson 7-16 10-13 24, M. Brown 2-6 0-0 4,
Lopez 6-14 4-6 15, Grant 3-9 2-4 8,
Turner 0-2 0-0 0, D. Brown 3-5 4-9 19,
1-1 0-0 3, E. Brown 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 29-71
19-26 73.

CONNECTICUT (15-1)
King 4-8 0-0 8, Johnson 1-3 2-2 4,
Knight 10-11 2-2 22, Sheffer 5-11 4-4 18,
Allen 9-16 3-4 26, Jones 1-4 2-4 5, Moore
0-3 2-2 2, Kneiber 1-1 0-2 2, Hayward 0-0
1-2 1, Ivy 0-0 0-0 0, Carson 0-0 0-0 0-0
0. Totals 31-58 16-27 88.
Hartford - Connecticut 45, St. John's
31, 3-point goals - St. John's 2-12 (Lyon
1-1, Lopez 1-3, Hamilton 0-1, M. Brown 0-1,
Turner 0-1, D. Brown 0-2, Barrett 0-3),
Connecticut 10-25 (Allen 5-10, Sheffer 4-11,
Jones 1-8, Moore 0-2, Grant 0-2, Grant
0-0, Rebounder - St. John's 40 (Hamilton
8), Connecticut 41 (Knight 14), Assists -
St. John's 11 (M. Brown 5), Connecticut
24 (Sheffer 8). Total fouls - St. John's 21,
Connecticut 22. A - 18,234.

8th round of State Cup pits top sides vs. underdogs

ORI LEWIS

NATIONAL LEAGUE soccer clubs return to action this weekend in the eighth round of the State Cup.

But the clubs will not face each other, as all 16 of them have been kept apart and will play against opposition from the lower divisions who managed to make it through to this stage of the competition.

This is the National League teams' introduction to the 1995-96 competition, while their opponents come from the second, third and fourth divisions.

Most intriguing among the ties is the one to be played at Bloomfield between National League champions Maccabi Tel Aviv, currently second in the table, against Second Division leaders Hapoel Jerusalem, while the greatest mismatch would appear to be the one between third-division Young Jaffa, which hosts National League leaders Betar Jerusalem at their home ground in Jaffa.

The matches will be played over one leg, with extra time and penalties to settle results and ensure that the participants in the ninth round are known by tomorrow evening.

State Cup eighth round matches today and tomorrow: Maccabi Netanya v. Maccabi Herzliya, Maccabi Haifa v. Ness Ziona, Hapoel Beersheba v. Hapoel Kiryat Shmona, Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Ramat Gan, Maccabi Jaffa v. Hapoel Ramat Gan, Maccabi Yavne v. Ironi Kiryat Shmona, Hapoel Kfar Saba v. Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Acre, Hapoel Ashdod v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Hapoel Be'er Sheva v. Be'er Sheva, Maccabi Sha'ar HaMoshava v. Be'er Sheva, Hapoel Kfar Shalom v. Be'er Tel Aviv, Shimon Tel Aviv v. Zefira Tel Aviv, Young Jaffa v. Be'er Jerusalem, Be'er Yehuda v. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Bat Yam.

Newcastle out of both cups, still favored to win league

LONDON (AP) - So much for Newcastle being the first team in English soccer history to win the "triple crown."

The Geordies were knocked out of the League Cup a week ago at Arsenal 2-0. On Wednesday they crashed to Chelsea on penalty kicks in the FA Cup third round after the game was tied 2-2.

All of which might be good news for Newcastle - not bad - according to Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle.

"I think ... that Newcastle will definitely go on to win the championship, there's no doubt about it," Hoddle said.

"I really feel that if you're involved in two cups and the league you get lots of injuries and suspensions which are no good for you," he added.

That was little immediate consolation for Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan.

"We worked so hard that I felt we deserved to get something from the game," he said. "I thought that work deserved something, and with a bit more luck we might've got it, but football's a cruel game."

What Newcastle wound up getting from the match - to help make Hoddle's point - was an injured Lea Ferdinand, the team's top scorer with 23 goals. He'll miss this weekend's game with Bolton - the Premier League's last-place club - with a rib injury.

Newcastle should beat Bolton with or without Ferdinand. The Geordies are already nine points clear of second place Manchester United and could move 12 ahead, putting the pressure on the Reds when they face West Ham on Monday.

A Newcastle League title would be its first since 1927 and cap a

rapid rush to the top following the Geordies' promotion to the Premier League just three seasons ago.

No English team has ever won the triple. Manchester United flirted with history in 1994 by winning the FA Cup and the Premier League - which English fans term the "double." But United stumbled in the final of the League Cup.

"A double-winner this season is possible - but a very, very long shot. A triple is an even longer shot, existing mostly in theory."

Aston Villa and Leeds are the only Premier League clubs still alive in both the FA and League cups. Villa faces Arsenal in the League Cup semifinal with Leeds up against First Division Norwich or Birmingham.

In the FA Cup fourth round, Leeds plays at Bolton and Aston Villa is at Sheffield United, which upset Arsenal in the previous round.

Now comes the hitch. Aston Villa and Leeds have little or no chance of winning the Premier League. Villa trails Newcastle by 15 points and Leeds is 16 back.

Tomorrow's Premier League matches: Arsenal-Everton, Blackburn-Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea-Nottingham Forest, Liverpool-Leeds, Manchester City-Coventry, Manchester City-Middlesbrough, Wimbledon-Leeds, Wimbledon-Queens Park Rangers.

FA Cup 4th round draw:
Saturday, January 27: Shrewsbury v. Liverpool; Charlton v. Brentford; Ipswich v. Walsall; Bolton v. Leeds; Huddersfield v. Peterborough; Coventry v. Manchester City; Middlesbrough v. Wimbledon; Reading v. Manchester United; Nottingham Forest v. Oxford; Southampton v. Crewe; Swindon v. Burnley; or Oldham v. Everton; Port Vale; West Ham v. Grimsby; Tottenham v. Wolverhampton.
Sunday, January 28: Sheffield United v. Aston Villa.
Monday, January 29: Queens Park Rangers v. Chelsea.

Heat beat Bullets in brawl-filled game

MIAMI (Reuter) - Alouzo Mourning had 38 points and 15 rebounds as the Miami Heat defeated the Washington Bullets, 96-89, to halt their five-game losing streak on Wednesday.

Rex Chapman added 18 points and Kevin Willis had 16 and 13 rebounds for the Heat, who won for just the third time in 10 games.

The game was marred by a brawl sparked when forward Juwan Howard forearmed Miami Guard Gimbo Coles at the end of the first quarter. Three players were ejected.

"He (Coles) cursed me as we were racing down the floor," Howard said. "It's what happens when two competitive guys get together. It's too bad it led to an altercation."

Hawks 102, Pacers 93

Andrew Lang scored 10 of his 17 points in the third quarter as the host Atlanta Hawks won their fifth consecutive game.

Stacey Augmon scored 24 for the Hawks, who improved to 6-6 against Central Division opponents and defeated Indiana for just the second

time in seven games.

"The team played great," said Augmon. "We all played together. With or without (Reggie) Miller, we were prepared to play tonight."

Rik Smits scored 25 points and Ricky Pierce added 16 for Indiana.

Nets 97, Hornets 93

Armon Gilliam had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Kenny Anderson scored five of his 22 points in the final 2 1/2 minutes to lead the New Jersey Nets in victory.

After Glen Rice gave Charlotte its last lead at 99-88 on a three-pointer with 3:19 remaining, Anderson hit a free throw and then layup and Chris Childs converted a lay-in to give the Nets a 93-89 lead with 49.8 seconds to play.

Bucks 111, 76ers 108

Glen Robinson scored eight of his 37 points during a decisive fourth quarter run as the Milwaukee Bucks wrapped up a four-game road trip.

Vin Baker added 22 points for the Bucks.

Vernon Maxwell finished with 20 points for Philadelphia.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: Milwaukee 111, Philadelphia 100; Miami 96, Washington 89; New Jersey 97, Charlotte 93; Atlanta 102, Indiana 93; Orlando 113, Phoenix 95; Minnesota 98, Golden State 88; Houston 128, Denver 112; New York 93, L.A. Clippers 81.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball owners approve interleague play

Major League Baseball owners yesterday voted to overthrow 95 years of tradition by approving interleague play for 1997, pending the approval of the Players Association.

The plan was recommended by baseball's Executive Council Tuesday night at the owners' meetings in Los Angeles and put to a vote by all the clubowners yesterday.

Elie out with fractured wrist

Houston Rockets swingman Mario Elie will be sidelined six-to-eight weeks with a fractured right wrist, the NBA champions said yesterday.

Elie suffered the injury when he hit the floor hard after a dunk in the second quarter of Houston's 120-112 win at Denver Wednesday night.

Herzog in charge of new national sports council

LOCAL SCENE

HEATHER CHAIT

KEEN golfer and former-President Chaim Herzog is a fitting head for the new Supreme National Council for Sport, the brainchild of Deputy Minister of Education and Sport Micha Goldman.

The council aims to improve conditions of sportspeople and to advance sport in general. It will include public figures, sportspeople (active and retired) and will deal with issues like scholarships for outstanding achievements and promoting sport as a worthwhile pastime.

End of a dream

As the days to Atlanta grow fewer, the list of "also-rans" grows longer. Falling by the way this week are table tennis players Isak Abramov and Tatiana Shupoviat who failed in their last attempt to earn a place in the Olympics after losing in a tournament in Manchester.

Abramov finished third out of five players while his team member was even less illustrious, ending fourth and last in her section. Better news was that Yativ Sharon, playing in the German league, was ranked ninth in the European listings (18 years and under), the best ranking ever by an Israeli.

Rocky in Ramle

Watch with whom you pick a fight in Ramle next week - 60 top boxers from eight countries will be competing in an international tournament in memory of the victims of the Munich massacre.

Georgia's world youth champion Gela Bizinasvili will arrive early to train with local champ Gucca Chiechiasvili while other teams putting up their gloves will be Uzbekistan, Greece, Moldova and Romania.

Water babies
From boxing to beauty and the European Youth Synchronized Swimming Championships (10-13 July, Wingate Institute) which have attracted European champions Russia and runners up France. Some of the other teams showing off their water ballet will be Belarus, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, England, Holland and Germany.

Swimming in Europe
Yoav Bruck will be the only Israeli swimmer trying his luck in the World Cup tournament, a series of four meets in Sweden, France, Italy and Germany over the next two months. Bruck will be swimming in the 50, 100 and 200-meter freestyle events.

Troubled waters
It hardly makes sense. Before a major competition, windsurfers usually train in the host country to familiarize themselves with the conditions. Why then would Amit Inbar (seeking the sole Olympic ticket above Gal Friedman) want to train in New Zealand for the world championships to be held in ... Haifa?

"It's illogical," said Shimshon Buber, Chairman of the Yachting Union who rejected the request out of hand.

SCOREBOARD

NEL - Wednesday's results: Detroit 3, Colorado 2; Hartford 6, N.Y. Islanders 3; Tampa Bay 6, San Jose 4; Winnipeg 4, Toronto 2; Pittsburgh 1, Buffalo 0; Montreal 3, Ottawa 0; Edmonton 4, Dallas 3; Washington 3, Chicago 2; Calgary 4, Anaheim 1.

Snow in hills; rain, hail wreak havoc on roads

DAVID RUDGE

SNOW fell in Jerusalem and surrounding hilly regions yesterday as well as on northern peaks, while other parts of the country were literally swamped as a result of heavy rain and hail.

Several people had to be evacuated from their homes in Ra'anana and Herzliya, and some schools were closed because of flooding.

Large pools of water, some more than a meter deep, formed on roads in central districts and scores of traffic lights throughout the country were shorted out by rain.

The resulting chaos on the roads was made even worse in some areas where an accumulation of hailstones covered main routes with ice. Dozens of road accidents were reported, most of them minor.

Safed and the Druse village of Beit Jan on Mt. Meron were both covered with snow.

Roads to and from Safed were closed for parts of the day and schoolchildren were sent home early.

Snow plows cleared the main access roads. Snow plows and sand-spreading trucks from the IDF and the Housing Ministry's Public Works Department also cleared roads in the northern

Golan.

The heaviest snowfalls were on Mt. Hermon, where the ski site was closed because of the stormy weather. By midday there was a fresh layer of snow on the mountain, between 35 to 50 cm. deep.

The heavy rainfall is expected to give a much-needed boost to the level of water in Lake Kinneret, which rose a further 3 cm. yesterday but remains 1.8 m. from its maximum mark. The country's two main underground reservoirs - Yarkon Tanimim and the coastal aquifer - are still far from full, water experts said.

All the Israel Electric Corporation's (IEC) power plants were working to nearly maximum capacity yesterday to cope with demand which was expected to reach a new record level of just under 6,000 megawatts last night.

Scores of power cuts were reported throughout the country during the past two days, but the IEC said these were primarily local breakdowns which were quickly rectified.

The stormy weather is expected to die out by tomorrow, although it is slated to remain colder than usual until Monday.

Meshulam gets preference but not luxury



Uzi Meshulam's private cell in his group's own wing of Ramle's Ayalon Prison.

(Hanoah Grizitzky/Israel Sun)

UZI Meshulam and his 11 followers refused to meet the press yesterday. On a visit organized by the Prisons Service to prove Meshulam's wing in Ramle's Ayalon Prison is not a five-star hotel, the group declined to receive the journalists in their cells.

After Meshulam's demands that male and female journalists be segregated so that women wear a head-covering and modest dress were rejected outright by Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi, his group was taken elsewhere during the visit.

Leshem B., a non-smoking wing, was renovated for its 12

religiously observant inmates, but is far from being a luxury hotel. There is one shower for all 12, but two toilets. The exercise yard is small, but the wing does boast a brand new washing machine and dryer. Bibi said other wings have washers, too.

The dining room is dilapidated and its ceiling leaks.

Despite denials of preferential treatment, Meshulam has a cell to himself, while his followers - three of whom are on remand for the attempted murder of a prison

guard - share a larger cell. Meshulam's cell has an orthopedic bed, a massage table, two small massage machines, an array of toiletries, three tape recorders, a heating pad, and a radiator. The walls are lined with religious books and tapes. Two toupees are slung into boxes on the floor.

His cell door has no bars and is not always locked. The orthopedic bed and other appliances were the outcome of endless court hearings and petitions. The only other prisoner with an or-

thopedic bed is terrorist leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Bibi has continually denied that Meshulam receives preferential treatment, "to keep the group quiet." He is kept alone, said Bibi, because the wing is "built that way."

Following Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz's recent statements that fringe elements of Meshulam's group are plotting to kill political figures and damage government property, he recommended that new arrangements be considered for Meshulam's group, including splitting it up.

RAINE MARCUS

Electricity up nearly 4.7%

ENERGY Minister Gonen Segev and Acting Finance Minister Moshe Shahal signed an order yesterday raising electricity prices by 4.67 percent.

The new prices take effect today. The increase was made in accordance with the 1992 Fogel Committee report which calls for a price update every six months

or every time there is a change of at least 3.5% in the price of one of the inputs.

Last month a six-month price adjustment was made. Today's increase was made due to changes in the exchange rate, the Consumer Price Index and unusual increases in the price of industrial fuel. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

NIS 850 million approved for second phase of redeployment

EVELYN GORDON

A JOINT Knesset committee yesterday unanimously approved NIS 850 million to cover the second phase of the redeployment in the territories.

The money will be used for both the actual transfer of army bases and other needs, such as completion of the bypass roads and security fences.

The Likud had vehemently opposed funding for the first phase of the redeployment, on the grounds that settlers' security needs were being neglected in the plan.

However, yesterday's vote passed smoothly, with only three MKs present: Knesset Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) and Likud MKs Meir Sheerit and Ovadia Eli.

Sheerit explained that the overall total had been approved previously.

So the only question was the breakdown of how the funds would be spent - and this breakdown satisfied him from a security point of view.

However, he added, it is noteworthy that the so-called "peace dividend" - decreased defense spending - has not yet materialized.

The joint Finance/Foreign Affairs and Defense committee also discussed a NIS 178 million transfer to Rafael.

The funds are meant to improve the company's infrastructure and set up "knowledge centers."

However, the committee postponed a decision on this issue, saying it first wanted more information on the status of the financially troubled company's recovery plan.

Qatari FM: No need to fear Israel

BEIRUT (AP) - The foreign minister of Qatar, in remarks published here yesterday, called on fellow Arabs to put behind them the years of conflict with Israel, saying they should not fear ties with Jerusalem.

Qatar has in recent years pursued an increasingly independent foreign policy from those of its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Its growing economic and other ties with Israel run against the GCC stance that such contacts should wait until a comprehensive Middle East settlement is in place.

The Qatari minister, Sheik Hamad Bin Jasssem Al Thani, told Beirut's *An-Nahar* newspaper that the numerically superior Arabs should not fear confronting the Israelis in the economic and

cultural fields. "The Arab population of 150 million must be able to overwhelm the five million Israelis living among them," he said.

"We will try to absorb those five million in the Arab world. We are capable of occupying Israel - economically and culturally."

WEATHER

Forecast: Lighter rain and winds. Sabbath: Rain. Colder than normal.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	01	20	clear
Berlin	01	20	clear
Bombay	25	32	clear
Chicago	01	20	clear
London	01	20	clear
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Trucks to go 90 kph; cars at 100

THE Transport Ministry announced yesterday that it will keep the 100 kph speed limit on some highways, but reduce to 90 kph the maximum speed limit for trucks. Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar announced that he is accepting the report of a special committee, which found that the 100 kph limit on limited-access highways has not resulted in more accidents. He said, however, that he would also accept the committee's proposal to reduce the maximum speed for trucks. *Haim Shapiro*

Bonn approves pensions to Jews forced out by Nazis

BONN (Reuter) - Germany's parliament voted yesterday to provide pensions to 35,000 German Jews driven from their homes in eastern Europe by the Nazis in World War II.

It ratified long-delayed accords with the US and Israel, first proposed in 1989, whose status in legislative limbo had threatened to embarrass the government

during President Ezer Weizman's state visit, which ended Wednesday. Germany last year signed agreements promising to provide pensions to surviving Jewish Germans, mostly from Romania and Latvia, who were driven out by the Nazis and now live in the US and Israel. But a row about where the funds should come from held up ratification.

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